

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

*See also* Appointments and Nominations;  
Meetings With Foreign Leaders  
Cabinet meeting—1569  
Georgia  
Georgia Public Policy Foundation in  
Atlanta—1576  
Reception for congressional candidate Max  
Burns in Pooler—1583  
Maryland, Labor Day in Piney Point—1554  
Military Officers Association of America—  
1557  
Radio address—1553  
War on terror—1569

### Appointments and Nominations

Transportation Department, Secretary,  
remarks—1565

### Communications to Congress

Military commissions, message transmitting  
draft legislation—1576  
Patent Law Treaty and Regulations Under the  
Patent Law Treaty, message transmitting—  
1568  
Terrorist attacks, letter on continuation of  
national emergency—1567

### Communications to Federal Agencies

Transfers of Defense Articles and Services in  
Support of Sudan Security Sector

### Communications to Federal Agencies— Continued

Transformation (SST) Program,  
memorandum—1556

### Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Kuwait, Amir Sabah—1557

### Notices

Continuation of the National Emergency With  
Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks—1567

### Proclamations

National Days of Prayer and Remembrance—  
1566  
Patriot Day—1589

### Resignations and Retirements

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,  
Administrator, statement—1566

### Statements by the President

*See* Resignations and Retirements

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1594  
Checklist of White House press releases—  
1593  
Digest of other White House  
announcements—1590  
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1591

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, September 8, 2006

### **The President's Radio Address**

*September 2, 2006*

Good morning. This week, I spoke to the American Legion in Salt Lake City. I thanked the military veterans for their lifetime of service to our country. And I gave them an update on the war that America is now fighting in defense of freedom in our time.

We're approaching the fifth anniversary of the September the 11th attacks—and since that day, we have taken the fight to the enemy. Yet this war is more than a military conflict; it is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. On one side are those who believe in freedom and moderation—the right of all people to speak, worship, and live in liberty. On the other side are those driven by tyranny and extremism—the right of a self-appointed few to impose their fanatical views on all the rest. We did not ask for this war, but we're answering history's call with confidence—and we will prevail.

We are using every element of national power to defeat the terrorists. First, we're staying on the offense against the terrorists, fighting them overseas so we do not have to face them here at home. Second, we made it clear to all nations, if you harbor terrorists, you're as guilty as the terrorists; you're an enemy of the United States, and you will be held to account. And third, we have launched a bold new agenda to defeat the ideology of the enemy by supporting the forces of freedom and moderation in the Middle East and beyond.

A vital part of our strategy to defeat the terrorists is to help establish a democratic Iraq, which will be a beacon of liberty in the region and an ally in the global war on terror. The terrorists understand the threat a democratic Iraq poses to their cause, so they've been fighting a bloody campaign of sectarian violence which they hope will plunge that country into a civil war. Our commanders and diplomats on the ground believe that

Iraq has not descended into a civil war. They report that only a small number of Iraqis are engaged in sectarian violence, while the overwhelming majority want peace and a normal life in a unified country. America will stand with the Iraqi people as they protect their new freedom and build a democracy that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself.

Working side by side with Iraqi forces, we recently launched a major new campaign to end the security crisis in Baghdad. This operation is still in its early stages, yet the initial results are encouraging. The people of Baghdad are seeing their security forces in the streets, dealing a blow to criminals and terrorists. According to one military report, a Sunni man in a diverse Baghdad neighborhood said this about the Shi'a soldiers on patrol: "Their image has changed. Now you feel they are there to protect you." Over the coming weeks and months, the operation will expand throughout Baghdad until Iraq's democratic Government is in full control of the capital. This work is difficult and dangerous, but Iraqi forces are determined to succeed, and America is determined to help them.

Here at home, some politicians say that our best option is to pull out of Iraq, regardless of the situation on the ground. Many of these people are sincere and patriotic, but they could not be more wrong. If America were to pull out before Iraq can defend itself, the consequences would be disastrous. We would be handing Iraq over to the terrorists, giving them a base of operations and huge oil riches to fund their ambitions. And we know exactly where those ambitions lead. If we give up the fight in the streets of Baghdad, we will face the terrorists in the streets of our own cities. The security of the civilized world depends on victory in the war on terror, and that depends on victory in Iraq, so America will not leave until victory is achieved.

For all the debate, American policy in the Middle East comes down to a straightforward

choice: We can allow the Middle East to continue on the course that led to September the 11th, and a generation from now, our children will face a region dominated by terrorist states and radical dictators armed with nuclear weapons. Or we can stop that from happening by rallying the world to confront the ideology of hate, by supporting the forces of liberty and moderation in the region, and by helping give the people of the Middle East a future of hope. And that is the choice America has made.

The path to victory will be uphill and uneven, and it will require more patience and sacrifice from our Nation. Yet we can be confident of the outcome, because America will not waver and because the direction of history leads toward freedom.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:55 a.m. on August 31 at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### Remarks on Labor Day in Piney Point, Maryland

September 4, 2006

**The President.** Thank you all. Please be seated. Happy Labor Day.

**Audience members.** Happy Labor Day.

**The President.** Yes, thanks. Listen, I'm thrilled that Michael invited me to come and visit with you this Labor Day. But this isn't the first time he invited me. *[Laughter]* He invited me for last year, and I committed. And then we had a terrible storm hit, and I hope you understood—understand why I needed to be there than up here last year.

Now he invited me again. And I couldn't wait to say yes and couldn't wait to come here. I must confess, Michael, I didn't realize how strong your facility—facilities are here. I wasn't sure what to expect, but this is a fantastic facility. It speaks to your leadership and the leadership and the importance of your union. And so here on Labor Day, I

say to the union members who are here, happy Labor Day, and thanks for supporting leadership that is progressive, smart, capable, and has your best interests at heart.

I'm proud to be here with the family members. Michael, thanks for inviting family members. As you know, I think family is an important part of life, and that—invite the family here—families here today was a smart thing to do. And I look forward to shaking as many hands as I can this morning.

Today on Labor Day, we honor those who work, and we honor those who work because, in so doing, we recognize that one of the reasons why we're the economic leader in the world is because of our workforce. And the fundamental question facing the country is, how do we continue to be the economic leader in the world? What do we do to make sure that when people look around the world next year and 10 years from now, they say, "The United States is still the most powerful economy in the world"? I think that's an important goal to have, because when we're the most powerful economy in the world, it means our people benefit. It means there's job opportunities. That's what we want. We want people working. We want people to realize their dreams.

And so the best thing to do is to keep progrowth economic policies in place as the first step to making sure we're the most powerful economy in the world. And I think that means keeping those taxes low, letting you keep more of your own money. See, when you have more money in your pocket, you get to spend the money. You get to make the decisions. And the fundamental question facing Government is, who best to spend your money, you or the Government? I believe you ought to do it.

So we ought to make the tax relief permanent. I like it when people are working for a living, having more after-tax money in their pocket. That's what I like. And I think that ought to be a policy of the United States Government. So to make sure that we're the economic leader of the world, we got to keep taxes low.

But we also got to do some other things that's smart, and it starts with making sure

our workers have the skills necessary to compete in the 21st century. And that's one of the primary reasons I came to this facility.

Now, I just happened to be over here at the training building, and they put me behind the wheel of a Coast Guard cutter in Baltimore Harbor, and they made the boat rock a little bit. *[Laughter]* And I got slightly discombobulated. *[Laughter]* It's one of the most amazing training tools I have ever seen. But it shows this union's commitment, along with industry's commitment, to making sure that those who pilot the boats, those who are engineers on the boats, have the absolute best training possible. See, as we constantly—as the world constantly changes, we better make sure that our workforce has the skills necessary to compete if we want to be the world's leading economy.

And so I applaud the Seafarers Union, and I applaud the employers working together to make sure that those who work for a living have what it takes to be competitive. And we got to make sure that's the case throughout all the workforce. And we got to make sure that our community colleges are accessible to people who need to gain new skills of the 21st century. See, as the workforce stays productive—in other words, if you keep getting a good education, it increases your standard of living, but also helps this country remain strong economically.

A couple of other things we need to do as well. We got to do something about energy in order to make sure that we're competitive, that this economy will remain strong, that people are able to find work. By the way, the unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. That's a good sign if you're somebody looking for a job. It means people are working here in the United States.

But one thing is clear, is that dependence on foreign oil jeopardizes our capacity to grow. I mean, the problem is, we get oil from some parts of the world and they simply don't like us. And so the more dependent we are on that type of energy, the less likely it will be that we are able to compete and—so people have good, high-paying jobs.

And so I've got a plan to work with—to spend money on technologies. See, the technological development here at this school has been dramatic. Well, we can achieve the

same technological breakthroughs when it comes to energy. And that starts with how we drive our automobiles. You know, one of these days, you're going to have a—batteries in your automobile that will enable you to drive the first 40 miles without gasoline, and your car doesn't have to look like a golf cart. *[Laughter]* I mean, I bet the people down in this part of the world like to drive pickups, Mike. *[Laughter]* But we're going to have a battery that makes those pickups go.

And the reason why is, is that we're spending money to develop new technologies to enable us to become less dependent on oil. And that makes sense. And so in order to think about how we remain competitive as a nation, we've got to be aggressive in promoting new technologies, particularly on the energy front.

You know, in the Midwest, a lot of people are beginning to fuel their cars with more and more ethanol. Ethanol is derived from corn. So you've got to get out there growing corn. The corn goes into an ethanol plant, and out comes fuel to drive the car. That seems to make a lot of sense to me, to say, in order to become less dependent on foreign oil, why don't we become more reliant upon America's farmers to produce energy for our automobiles. And that's the kinds of things we're doing.

You know, we flew over—coming here, we flew over a nuclear powerplant, and it's a modern, safe plant. In my judgment, this country ought to continue to expand nuclear power if we want to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy. Nuclear power is safe; nuclear power is clean; and nuclear power is renewable. And so what I'm telling you is, and what I want the country to understand is, is that technologies has enabled this workforce, this union to become—have a more productive workforce; technology is going to enable us to become less dependent on oil. And we've got to continue to pursue technologies.

And finally, one of the ways to make sure that we're a competitive nation is to continue opening up markets for U.S. products. If I was somebody who was driving a ship or an engineer on a ship, I'd want to hear a President say, "We want you to be selling U.S. products—transporting U.S. products

around the world.” See, we’ve got 5 percent of the world’s people here in the United States, which means 95 percent are potential customers. And therefore, it’s important for us to be aggressive about opening up markets.

And my message to the world is this: Just treat us the way we treat you. That’s all we expect. We just want the rules to be fair—because I believe this country can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere, so long as the rules are fair.

So Mike asked me to come and talk about ways to make sure we’re competitive. He said, “What are you going to do, Mr. President? There you are; things are going okay now, but what about 5 years from now; what will the world look like?” And I hope here are some good ideas for you to think about, about how to make sure that the United States is competitive.

In the meantime, it’s important for Presidents to embrace the Jones Act. Sacco’s constantly talking to me about that. I have, so far, 5½ years as the President, supported the Jones Act and will continue to do so as the President.

I can’t help but look at a man over there in uniform and think about our military right now on Labor Day. First, thank you for serving. And our soldiers and sailors and Coast Guard men and marines and Air Force have got to understand this—that this country supports them in the mission; that they may hear all the political discourse going on, but the people of this country, the people of the United States of America stand squarely behind the men and women who wear our uniform. And on Labor Day, we think about those who are sacrificing for our freedom and peace, and we think about their families too.

And so I want to thank you for greeting me. I look forward to coming to say hello to you. I appreciate you taking time out of your day to say hi. I know you’re a little disappointed that Laura didn’t come. [*Laughter*] You probably wish she’d have come and I stayed at home. [*Laughter*] But she sends her greetings. God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. at the Paul Haul Center for Maritime Training and Education. In his remarks, he referred to Michael Sacco, president, Seafarers International Union of North America, AFL–CIO.

### **Memorandum on Transfers of Defense Articles and Services in Support of Sudan Security Sector Transformation (SST) Program**

*August 28, 2006*

Presidential Determination No. 2006–22

#### *Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Transfers of Defense Articles and Services in Support of Sudan Security Sector Transformation (SST) Program

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 40(g) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), I hereby:

- Determine that the transaction, encompassing transfers of defense articles and services, funded by United States Government assistance, necessary for an SST program for the Government of Southern Sudan that will support transformation of the Sudan People’s Liberation Army from a guerrilla force into a smaller, conventional force is essential to the national security interests of the United States. Such transfers include the provision of vehicles and communications equipment; power generation; facilities construction/renovation; training and technical assistance; recommendations for force structure, training, equipment, infrastructure, and resource management; and other defense articles and services in support of military reform in Southern Sudan, including support to the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement;
- Waive the prohibitions in section 40 of the AECA related to such transaction; and
- Assign to you the functions under section 40(g)(2) of the AECA to consult with and submit reports to the Congress

for proposed specific exports or transfers, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 11, 2006]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 5 and will publish in the *Federal Register* on September 12.

**Remarks Following Discussions With  
Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-  
Sabah of Kuwait**  
*September 5, 2006*

**President Bush.** Your Highness, thank you for coming. It's been my honor to welcome you and your delegation here to the Oval Office. I congratulate you for taking on the very important responsibilities of our close friend and ally, Kuwait.

We've had a important strategic dialog about how to work together to promote peace and stability in the Middle East. I thank you for your leadership. I congratulate you for your steady reforms in your country. They have served as a notable example for others in the region. I thank you very much for your steadfast support of our United States military. It means a lot, Your Highness, to know that we can count on your friendship.

I appreciated your advice on a variety of matters. His Highness has got a clear vision about how we can work together strategically as well as commercially. And I want to thank you for that vision. I assured His Highness that I fully understand that the United States has an obligation to work to promote the peace. And we will work to promote the peace with our friends.

And so I welcome you here, sir. It's great to see you again. And I'm honored that you would take time to visit me.

**Amir Sabah.** Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would like really to express my

gratitude on my own behalf and the behalf of the delegation that accompanying me for this kind invitation. We have conducted a very fruitful talk. We have covered several issues, bilateral issues, economic issues related to strengthening the bilateral relation between our two countries. And also we have discussed some regional matters related with the aim of both of us to achieve stability in the region.

Yes, I do agree that there are differences between points of view from the United States and some of our region. But, nevertheless, I would like also to say that there are differences between ourselves, the region. But the goal is to achieve peace and security, and we have seen in a lot of our positions that we are seeing our—the positions eye to eye. Therefore, I am very grateful for the outcome of this visit.

**President Bush.** Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:54 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Amir Sabah spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

**Remarks to the Military Officers  
Association of America**

*September 5, 2006*

Thank you all. Please be seated. General Hendrix, thank you for the invitation to be here. Thanks for the kind introduction. I'm honored to stand with the men and women of the Military Officers Association of America. I appreciate the board of directors who are here and the leaders who have given me this platform from which to speak. I'm proud to be here with active members of the United States military. Thank you for your service. I'm proud to be your Commander in Chief.

I want to—pleased also to stand with members of the diplomatic corps, including many representing nations that have been attacked by Al Qaida and its terrorist allies since September the 11th, 2001. Your presence here reminds us that we're engaged in a global war against an enemy that threatens all civilized nations. And today, the civilized world stands together to defend our freedom; we stand together to defeat the terrorists; and



we're working to secure the peace for generations to come.

I appreciate my Attorney General joining us today, Al Gonzales. Thank you for being here. The Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, is with us. Three Members of the United States Senate—I might say, three important Members of the United States Senate—Senate President pro tem Ted Stevens of Alaska. Thank you for joining us, Senator. Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi. The chairman of the Armed Services Committee, John Warner of Virginia.

I thank Norb Ryan, as well, for his leadership. I do appreciate all the folks that are at Walter Reed who have joined us today. I'm going to tell the parents of our troops, we provide great health care to those who wear the uniform. I'm proud of those folks at Bethesda and Walter Reed—are providing you the best possible care to help you recover from your injuries. Thank you for your courage. Thank you for joining us here today. May God bless you in your recovery.

Next week, America will mark the fifth anniversary of September the 11th, 2001, terrorist attacks. As this day approaches, it brings with it a flood of painful memories. We remember the horror of watching planes fly into the World Trade Center and seeing the towers collapse before our eyes. We remember the sight of the Pentagon broken and in flames. We remember the rescue workers who rushed into burning buildings to save lives, knowing they might never emerge again. We remember the brave passengers who charged the cockpit of their hijacked plane and stopped the terrorists from reaching their target and killing more innocent civilians. We remember the cold brutality of the enemy who inflicted this harm on our country—an enemy whose leader, Usama bin Laden, declared the massacre of nearly 3,000 people that day, I quote, “an unparalleled and magnificent feat of valor, unmatched by any in humankind before them.”

In 5 years since our Nation was attacked, Al Qaida and terrorists it has inspired have continued to attack across the world. They've killed the innocent in Europe and Africa and the Middle East, in central Asia and the Far

East and beyond. Most recently, they attempted to strike again in the most ambitious plot since the attacks of September the 11th—a plan to blow up passenger planes headed for America, over the Atlantic Ocean.

Five years after our Nation was attacked, the terrorist danger remains. We're a nation at war, and America and her allies are fighting this war with relentless determination across the world. Together with our coalition partners, we've removed terrorist sanctuaries, disrupted their finances, killed and captured key operatives, broken up terrorist cells in America and other nations, and stopped new attacks before they're carried out. We're on the offense against the terrorists on every battlefield, and we'll accept nothing less than complete victory.

In the 5 years since our Nation was attacked, we've also learned a great deal about the enemy we face in this war. We've learned about them through videos and audio recordings and letters and statements they've posted on web sites. We've learned about them from captured enemy documents that the terrorists have never meant for us to see. Together, these documents and statements have given us clear insight into the mind of our enemies—their ideology, their ambitions, and their strategy to defeat us.

We know what the terrorists intend to do because they've told us—and we need to take their words seriously. So today I'm going to describe, in the terrorists' own words, what they believe, what they hope to accomplish, and how they intend to accomplish it. I'll discuss how the enemy has adapted in the wake of our sustained offensive against them and the threat posed by different strains of violent Islamic radicalism. I'll explain the strategy we're pursuing to protect America by defeating the terrorists on the battlefield and defeating their hateful ideology in the battle of ideas.

The terrorists who attacked us on September the 11th, 2001, are men without conscience—but they're not madmen. They kill in the name of a clear and focused ideology, a set of beliefs that are evil but not insane. These Al Qaida terrorists, and those who share their ideology, are violent Sunni extremists. They're driven by a radical and perverted vision of Islam that rejects tolerance,

crushes all dissent, and justifies the murder of innocent men, women, and children in the pursuit of political power. They hope to establish a violent political utopia across the Middle East, which they call a “caliphate,” where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology. Usama bin Laden has called the 9/11 attacks—in his words—“a great step towards the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous—caliphate.”

This caliphate would be a totalitarian Islamic empire encompassing all current and former Muslim lands, stretching from Europe to north Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. We know this because Al Qaida has told us. About 2 months ago, the terrorist Zawahiri—he’s Al Qaida’s second in command—declared that Al Qaida intends to impose its rule in “every land that was a home for Islam, from Spain to Iraq.” He went on to say, “The whole world is an open field for us.”

We know what this radical empire would look like in practice, because we saw how the radicals imposed their ideology on the people of Afghanistan. Under the rule of the Taliban and Al Qaida, Afghanistan was a totalitarian nightmare—a land where women were imprisoned in their homes; men were beaten for missing prayer meetings; girls could not go to school; and children were forbidden the smallest pleasures, like flying kites. Religious police roamed the streets, beating and detaining civilians for perceived offenses. Women were publicly whipped. Summary executions were held in Kabul’s soccer stadium in front of cheering mobs. And Afghanistan was turned into a launching pad for horrific attacks against America and other parts of the civilized world, including many Muslim nations.

The goal of these Sunni extremists is to remake the entire Muslim world in their radical image. In pursuit of their imperial aims, these extremists say there can be no compromise or dialog with those they call infidels—a category that includes America, the world’s free nations, Jews, and all Muslims who reject their extreme vision of Islam. They reject the possibility of peaceful coexistence with the free world. Again, hear the words of Usama bin Laden earlier this year:

“Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers among us.”

These radicals have declared their uncompromising hostility to freedom. It is foolish to think that you can negotiate with them. We see the uncompromising nature of the enemy in many captured terrorist documents. Here are just two examples: After the liberation of Afghanistan, coalition forces searching through a terrorist safe house in that country found a copy of the Al Qaida charter. This charter states that “there will be continuing enmity until everyone believes in Allah. We will not meet the enemy halfway. There will be no room for dialog with them.” Another document was found in 2000 by British police during an antiterrorist raid in London—a grisly Al Qaida manual that includes chapters with titles such as “Guidelines for Beating and Killing Hostages.” This manual declares that their vision of Islam “does not make a truce with unbelief, but rather confronts it.” The confrontation calls for “the dialog of bullets; the ideals of assassination, bombing, and destruction; and the diplomacy of the cannon and machine gun,” end quote.

Still other captured documents show Al Qaida’s strategy for infiltrating Muslim nations, establishing terrorist enclaves, overthrowing governments, and building their totalitarian empire. We see this strategy laid out in a captured Al Qaida document found during a recent raid in Iraq, which describes their plans to infiltrate and to take over Iraq’s western Anbar Province. The document lays out an elaborate Al Qaida governing structure for the region that includes an Education Department, a Social Services Department, a Justice Department, and an Execution Unit responsible for “Sorting out, Arrest, Murder, and Destruction.”

According to their public statements, countries that have—they have targeted stretch from the Middle East to Africa to Southeast Asia. Through this strategy, Al Qaida and its allies intend to create numerous, decentralized operating bases across the world, from which they can plan new attacks and advance their vision of a unified, totalitarian Islamic state that can confront and eventually destroy the free world.

These violent extremists know that to realize this vision, they must first drive out the main obstacle that stands in their way—the United States of America. According to Al Qaida, their strategy to defeat America has two parts. First, they're waging a campaign of terror across the world. They're targeting our forces abroad, hoping that the American people will grow tired of casualties and give up the fight. And they're targeting America's financial centers and economic infrastructure at home, hoping to terrorize us and cause our economy to collapse.

Bin Laden calls this his "bleed-until-bankruptcy plan," end quote. And he cited the attacks of 9/11 as evidence that such a plan can succeed. With the 9/11 attacks, Usama bin Laden says, "Al Qaida spent \$500,000 on the event, while America lost—according to the lowest estimate—\$500 billion," meaning that every dollar of Al Qaida defeated a million dollars of America. Bin Laden concludes from this experience that "America is definitely a great power, with unbelievable military strength and a vibrant economy, but all these have been built on a very weak and hollow foundation." He went on to say, "Therefore, it is very easy to target the flimsy base and concentrate on their weak points, and even if we're able to target one-tenth of these weak points, we will be able to crush and destroy them."

Secondly, along with this campaign of terror, the enemy has a propaganda strategy. Usama bin Laden laid out this strategy in a letter to the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, that coalition forces uncovered in Afghanistan in 2002. In it, bin Laden says that Al Qaida intends to launch, in his words, "a media campaign to create a wedge between the American people and their Government." This media campaign, bin Laden says, will send the American people a number of messages, including "that their Government will bring them more losses, in finances and casualties." And he goes on to say that "they are being sacrificed to serve the big investors, especially the Jews." Bin Laden says that by delivering these messages, Al Qaida "aims at creating pressure from the American people on the American Government to stop their campaign against Afghanistan."

Bin Laden and his allies are absolutely convinced they can succeed in forcing America to retreat and causing our economic collapse. They believe our Nation is weak and decadent and lacking in patience and resolve. And they're wrong. Usama bin Laden has written that the "defeat of American forces in Beirut in 1983 is proof America does not have the stomach to stay in the fight." He's declared that "in Somalia, the United States pulled out, trailing disappointment, defeat, and failure behind it." And last year, the terrorist Zawahiri declared that Americans "know better than others that there is no hope in victory. The Vietnam specter is closing every outlet."

These terrorists hope to drive America and our coalition out of Afghanistan so they can restore the safe haven they lost when coalition forces drove them out 5 years ago. But they've made clear that the most important front in their struggle against America is Iraq—the nation bin Laden has declared the "capital of the caliphate." Hear the words of bin Laden: "I now address the whole Islamic nation: Listen and understand. The most serious issue today for the whole world is this third world war that is raging in Iraq." He calls it "a war of destiny between infidelity and Islam." He says, "The whole world is watching this war," and that it will end in "victory and glory or misery and humiliation." For Al Qaida, Iraq is not a distraction from their war on America—it is the central battlefield where the outcome of this struggle will be decided.

Here is what Al Qaida says they will do if they succeed in driving us out of Iraq. The terrorist Zawahiri has said that Al Qaida will proceed with "several incremental goals. The first stage: Expel the Americans from Iraq. The second stage: Establish an Islamic authority or amirate, then develop it and support it until it achieves the level of caliphate. The third stage: Extend the jihad wave to the secular countries neighboring Iraq. And the fourth stage: The clash with Israel."

These evil men know that a fundamental threat to their aspirations is a democratic Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself. They know that given a choice, the Iraqi people will never choose to live in the totalitarian state the extremists hope to

establish. And that is why we must not and we will not give the enemy victory in Iraq by deserting the Iraqi people.

Last year, the terrorist Zarqawi declared in a message posted on the Internet that democracy “is the essence of infidelity and deviation from the right path.” The Iraqi people disagree. Last December, nearly 12 million Iraqis from every ethnic and religious community turned out to vote in their country’s third free election in less than a year. Iraq now has a unity government that represents Iraq’s diverse population, and Al Qaida’s top commander in Iraq breathed his last breath.

Despite these strategic setbacks, the enemy will continue to fight freedom’s advance in Iraq, because they understand the stakes in this war. Again, hear the words of bin Laden in a message to the American people earlier this year. He says, “The war is for you or for us to win. If we win it, it means your defeat and disgrace forever.”

Now, I know some of our country hear the terrorists’ words and hope that they will not or cannot do what they say. History teaches that underestimating the words of evil and ambitious men is a terrible mistake. In the early 1900’s, an exiled lawyer in Europe published a pamphlet called “What Is To Be Done?”—in which he laid out his plan to launch a Communist revolution in Russia. The world did not heed Lenin’s words and paid a terrible price. The Soviet Empire he established killed tens of millions and brought the world to the brink of thermonuclear war. In the 1920’s, a failed Austrian painter published a book in which he explained his intention to build an Aryan superstate in Germany and take revenge on Europe and eradicate the Jews. The world ignored Hitler’s words and paid a terrible price. His Nazi regime killed millions in the gas chambers and set the world aflame in war before it was finally defeated at a terrible cost in lives.

Bin Laden and his terrorist allies have made their intentions as clear as Lenin and Hitler before them. The question is: Will we listen? Will we pay attention to what these evil men say? America and our coalition partners have made our choice. We’re taking the words of the enemy seriously. We’re on the offensive; we will not rest; we will not retreat;

and we will not withdraw from the fight until this threat to civilization has been removed.

Five years into this struggle, it’s important to take stock of what’s been accomplished and the difficult work that remains. Al Qaida has been weakened by our sustained offensive against them. And today, it is harder for Al Qaida’s leaders to operate freely, to move money, or to communicate with their operatives and facilitators. Yet Al Qaida remains dangerous and determined. Bin Laden and Zawahiri remain in hiding in remote regions of this world. Al Qaida continues to adapt in the face of our global campaign against them. Increasingly, Al Qaida is taking advantage of the Internet to disseminate propaganda and to conduct virtual recruitment and virtual training of new terrorists. Al Qaida’s leaders no longer need to meet face to face with their operatives. They can find new suicide bombers and facilitate new terrorist attacks without ever laying eyes on those they’re training, financing, or sending to strike us.

As Al Qaida changes, the broader terrorist movement is also changing, becoming more dispersed and self-directed. More and more, we’re facing threats from locally established terrorist cells that are inspired by Al Qaida’s ideology and goals but do not necessarily have direct links to Al Qaida, such as training and funding. Some of these groups are made up of homegrown terrorists, militant extremists who were born and educated in Western nations, were indoctrinated by radical Islamists or attracted to their ideology, and joined the violent extremist cause. These locally established cells appear to be responsible for a number of attacks and plots, including those in Madrid and Canada and other countries across the world.

As we continue to fight Al Qaida and these Sunni extremists inspired by their radical ideology, we also face the threat posed by Shi’a extremists who are learning from Al Qaida, increasing their assertiveness, and stepping up their threats. Like the vast majority of Sunnis, the vast majority of Shi’a across the world reject the vision of extremists. And in Iraq, millions of Shi’a have defied terrorist threats to vote in free elections and have shown their desire to live in freedom. The Shi’a extremists want to deny them this right.

This Shi'a strain of Islamic radicalism is just as dangerous and just as hostile to America and just as determined to establish its brand of hegemony across the broader Middle East. The Shi'a extremists have achieved something that Al Qaida has so far failed to do: In 1979, they took control of a major power, the nation of Iran, subjugating its proud people to a regime of tyranny and using that nation's resources to fund the spread of terror and pursue their radical agenda.

Like Al Qaida and the Sunni extremists, the Iranian regime has clear aims: They want to drive America out of the region, to destroy Israel, and to dominate the broader Middle East. To achieve these aims, they are funding and arming terrorist groups like Hizballah, which allow them to attack Israel and America by proxy. Hizballah, the source of the current instability in Lebanon, has killed more Americans than any terrorist organization except Al Qaida. Unlike Al Qaida, they've not yet attacked the American homeland. Yet they're directly responsible for the murder of hundreds of Americans abroad. It was Hizballah that was behind the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut that killed 241 Americans. And Saudi Hizballah was behind the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans, an attack conducted by terrorists who we believe were working with Iranian officials.

Just as we take the words of the Sunni extremists seriously, we must take the words of the Shi'a extremists seriously. Listen to the words of Hizballah's leader, the terrorist Nasrallah, who has declared his hatred of America. He says, "Let the entire world hear me. Our hostility to the Great Satan, America, is absolute. Regardless of how the world has changed after 11 September, death to America will remain our reverberating and powerful slogan: Death to America."

Iran's leaders, who back Hizballah, have also declared their absolute hostility to America. Last October, Iran's President declared in a speech that some people ask—in his words—"whether a world without the United States and Zionism can be achieved. I say that this goal is achievable." Less than 3 months ago, Iran's President declared to America and other Western powers: "Open

your eyes and see the fate of pharaoh. If you do not abandon the path of falsehood, your doomed destiny will be annihilation." Less than 2 months ago, he warned, "The anger of Muslims may reach an explosion point soon. If such a day comes, America and the West should know that the waves of the blast will not remain within the boundaries of our region." He also delivered this message to the American people: "If you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will force you to surrender and bow down." America will not bow down to tyrants.

The Iranian regime and its terrorist proxies have demonstrated their willingness to kill Americans, and now the Iranian regime is pursuing nuclear weapons. The world is working together to prevent Iran's regime from acquiring the tools of mass murder. The international community has made a reasonable proposal to Iran's leaders and given them the opportunity to set their nation on a better course. So far, Iran's leaders have rejected this offer. Their choice is increasingly isolating the great Iranian nation from the international community and denying the Iranian people an opportunity for greater economic prosperity. It's time for Iran's leader to make a different choice. And we've made our choice. We'll continue to work closely with our allies to find a diplomatic solution. The world's free nations will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon.

The Shi'a and Sunni extremists represent different faces of the same threat. They draw inspiration from different sources, but both seek to impose a dark vision of violent Islamic radicalism across the Middle East. They oppose the advance of freedom, and they want to gain control of weapons of mass destruction. If they succeed in undermining fragile democracies like Iraq and drive the forces of freedom out of the region, they will have an open field to pursue their dangerous goals. Each strain of violent Islamic radicalism would be emboldened in their efforts to topple moderate governments and establish terrorist safe havens.

Imagine a world in which they were able to control governments, a world awash with

oil, and they would use oil resources to punish industrialized nations. And they would use those resources to fuel their radical agenda and pursue and purchase weapons of mass murder. And armed with nuclear weapons, they would blackmail the free world and spread their ideologies of hate and raise a mortal threat to the American people. If we allow them to do this, if we retreat from Iraq, if we don't uphold our duty to support those who are desirous to live in liberty, 50 years from now, history will look back on our time with unforgiving clarity and demand to know why we did not act.

I'm not going to allow this to happen, and no future American President can allow it either. America did not seek this global struggle, but we're answering history's call with confidence and a clear strategy. Today we're releasing a document called the "National Strategy for Combating Terrorism." This is an unclassified version of the strategy we've been pursuing since September the 11th, 2001. This strategy was first released in February 2003; it's been updated to take into account the changing nature of this enemy. This strategy document is posted on the White House web site, [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov), and I urge all Americans to read it.

Our strategy for combating terrorism has five basic elements. First, we're determined to prevent terrorist attacks before they occur, so we're taking the fight to the enemy. The best way to protect America is to stay on the offense. Since 9/11, our coalition has captured or killed Al Qaida managers and operatives and scores of other terrorists across the world. The enemy is living under constant pressure, and we intend to keep it that way—and this adds to our security. When terrorists spend their days working to avoid death or capture, it's harder for them to plan and execute new attacks.

We're also fighting the enemy here at home. We've given our law enforcement and intelligence professionals the tools they need to stop the terrorists in our midst. We passed the PATRIOT Act to break down the wall that prevented law enforcement and intelligence from sharing vital information. We created the terrorist surveillance program to monitor the communications between Al Qaida commanders abroad and terrorist

operatives within our borders. If Al Qaida is calling somebody in America, we need to know why in order to stop attacks.

I want to thank these three Senators for working with us to give our law enforcement and intelligence officers the tools necessary to do their jobs. And over the last 5 years, Federal, State, and local law enforcement have used those tools to break up terrorist cells and to prosecute terrorist operatives and supporters in New York and Oregon and Virginia and Texas and New Jersey and Illinois, Ohio, and other States. By taking the battle to the terrorists and their supporters on our own soil and across the world, we've stopped a number of Al Qaida plots.

Second, we're determined to deny weapons of mass destruction to outlaw regimes and terrorists who would use them without hesitation. Working with Great Britain and Pakistan and other nations, the United States shut down the world's most dangerous nuclear trading cartel, the A.Q. Khan network. This network had supplied Iran and Libya and North Korea with equipment and know-how that advanced their efforts to obtain nuclear weapons. And we launched the Proliferation Security Initiative, a coalition of more than 70 nations that is working together to stop shipments related to weapons of mass destruction on land, at sea, and in the air. The greatest threat this world faces is the danger of extremists and terrorists armed with weapons of mass destruction, and this is a threat America cannot defeat on her own. We applaud the determined efforts of many nations around the world to stop the spread of these dangerous weapons. Together, we pledge we'll continue to work together to stop the world's most dangerous men from getting their hands on the world's most dangerous weapons.

Third, we're determined to deny terrorists the support of outlaw regimes. After September the 11th, I laid out a clear doctrine: America makes no distinction between those who commit acts of terror and those that harbor and support them, because they're equally guilty of murder. Thanks to our efforts, there are now three fewer state sponsors of terror in the world than there were on September the 11th, 2001. Afghanistan and Iraq have been transformed from terrorist states

into allies in the war on terror. And the nation of Libya has renounced terrorism and given up its weapons of mass destruction programs and its nuclear materials and equipment. Over the past 5 years, we've acted to disrupt the flow of weapons and support from terrorist states to terrorist networks. And we have made clear that any government that chooses to be an ally of terror has also chosen to be an enemy of civilization.

Fourth, we're determined to deny terrorist networks control of any nation or territory within a nation. So, along with our coalition and the Iraqi Government, we'll stop the terrorists from taking control of Iraq and establishing a new safe haven from which to attack America and the free world. And we're working with friends and allies to deny the terrorists the enclaves they seek to establish in ungoverned areas across the world. By helping governments reclaim full sovereign control over their territory, we make ourselves more secure.

Fifth, we're working to deny terrorists new recruits by defeating their hateful ideology and spreading the hope of freedom—by spreading the hope of freedom across the Middle East. For decades, American policy sought to achieve peace in the Middle East by pursuing stability at the expense of liberty. The lack of freedom in that region helped create conditions where anger and resentment grew and radicalism thrived and terrorists found willing recruits. And we saw the consequences on September the 11th, when the terrorists brought death and destruction to our country. The policy wasn't working.

The experience of September the 11th made clear, in the long run, the only way to secure our Nation is to change the course of the Middle East. And so America has committed its influence in the world to advancing freedom and liberty and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. We're taking the side of democratic leaders and moderates and reformers across the Middle East. We strongly support the voices of tolerance and moderation in the Muslim world. We're standing with Afghanistan's elected Government against Al Qaida and the Taliban remnants that are trying to restore tyranny in that country. We're standing with Lebanon's young democracy against

the foreign forces that are seeking to undermine the country's sovereignty and independence. And we're standing with the leaders of Iraq's unity Government as they work to defeat the enemies of freedom and chart a more hopeful course for their people. This is why victory is so important in Iraq. By helping freedom succeed in Iraq, we will help America and the Middle East and the world become more secure.

During the last 5 years, we've learned a lot about this enemy. We've learned that they're cunning and sophisticated. We've witnessed their ability to change their methods and their tactics with deadly speed, even as their murderous obsessions remain unchanging. We've seen that it's the terrorists who have declared war on Muslims, slaughtering huge numbers of innocent Muslim men and women around the world.

We know what the terrorists believe. We know what they have done, and we know what they intend to do. And now the world's free nations must summon the will to meet this great challenge. The road ahead is going to be difficult, and it will require more sacrifice. Yet we can have confidence in the outcome, because we've seen freedom conquer tyranny and terror before. In the 20th century, free nations confronted and defeated Nazi Germany. During the cold war, we confronted Soviet communism, and today, Europe is whole, free, and at peace.

And now, freedom is once again contending with the forces of darkness and tyranny. This time the battle is unfolding in a new region—the broader Middle East. This time we're not waiting for our enemies to gather in strength. This time we're confronting them before they gain the capacity to inflict unspeakable damage on the world, and we're confronting their hateful ideology before it fully takes root.

We see a day when people across the Middle East have governments that honor their dignity and unleash their creativity and count their votes. We see a day when, across this region, citizens are allowed to express themselves freely; women have full rights; and children are educated and given the tools necessary to succeed in life. And we see a day when all the nations of the Middle East are allies in the cause of peace.

We fight for this day, because the security of our own citizens depends on it. This is the great ideological struggle of the 21st century—and it is the calling of our generation. All civilized nations are bound together in this struggle between moderation and extremism. By coming together, we will roll back this grave threat to our way of life. We will help the people of the Middle East claim their freedom, and we will leave a safer and more hopeful world for our children and our grandchildren.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. at the Capital Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John W. Hendrix, USA, (Ret.), chairman of the board, and Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., USN, (Ret.), president, Military Officers Association of America; President Mahmud Ahmadinejad of Iran; and A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program.

### **Remarks on the Nomination of Mary Peters To Be Secretary of Transportation**

*September 5, 2006*

**The President.** Good afternoon and welcome to the White House. I'm pleased to announce that I intend to nominate Mary Peters to be the next Secretary of Transportation.

Our Nation's transportation infrastructure is vital to our prosperity and competitiveness; it's critical to the everyday lives of our citizens. The Secretary of Transportation is responsible for maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system. In addition, the Secretary of Transportation plays an important role in our Nation's coordinated efforts to guard against terrorist threats to our aircraft, our seaports, and our infrastructure. It is the job that requires vision and strong leadership.

Mary Peters is the right person for this job. She brings a lifetime of experience on transportation issues, from both the private and public sectors. She now serves as a senior executive for transportation policy at a major engineering firm. Before that, Mary served in my administration as the head of the Federal Highway Administration. As Adminis-

trator, Mary led efforts to improve safety and security, reduce traffic congestion, and modernize America's roads and bridges.

And before coming to Washington, Mary served in the Arizona Department of Transportation for more than 15 years, rising through the ranks to become the director in 1998. Mary has a reputation for character and common sense. She's an innovative thinker. She knows how to set priorities and to solve problems. And as a member of my Cabinet, Mary will work closely with State and local leaders to ensure that America has a state-of-the-art transportation system that meets the needs of our growing economy.

When confirmed by the Senate, Mary will succeed one of our Nation's finest Secretaries of Transportation in Norm Mineta. When I came to Washington, I asked Norm to continue his service by joining my Cabinet. And he shows that when we put politics aside, people from different political parties can work together to achieve results for the American people.

He was the Secretary of Transportation on September the 11th, 2001, and he led the unprecedented effort to bring tens of thousands of passengers aboard commercial aircraft to safe landings. And since then, he's worked to strengthen the security at America's airports and seaports. He's played a critical role in keeping America safe from terrorist attacks. Norm also worked hard to modernize the aviation market. And after Hurricane Katrina, Norm and his team swung into action to repair and reopen major highways and seaports and airports and pipelines along America's gulf coast.

Norm Mineta has served America with integrity and dedication and distinction. He leaves office as the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in our Nation's history. I appreciate Norm's lifetime of service to our country. I wish him and Deni and all his family all the best. I also want to thank Maria Cino for her outstanding leadership of the Department since Norm stepped down in July.

Mary Peters knows the legacy she has to live up to at the Department of Transportation. She will take this new post during a time of historic challenges for our economy and our transportation system. I want to



thank Mary for her willingness to serve yet again. She's going to make an outstanding Secretary of Transportation, and I call upon the United States Senate to confirm her promptly. Congratulations.

*[At this point, Secretary-designate Peters made brief remarks.]*

**The President.** Good job, thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Danealia "Deni" Mineta, wife of former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; and Maria Cino, Acting Secretary of Transportation. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Peters.

### **Statement on the Resignation of Mark B. McClellan as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

*September 5, 2006*

Mark McClellan has served my administration in a number of pivotal positions and in doing so has bettered the lives of millions of Americans. He played an instrumental role in transforming the Nation's health care system, and his efforts will continue to make a difference for generations.

Mark first served as a member of my Council of Economic Advisors, focusing on health care and related economic issues. He then became head of the Food and Drug Administration, where he provided steady leadership to empower consumers and to ensure rapid access to products that are safe and effective. For the last 2½ years, Mark has run the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Department of Health and Human Services. As CMS Administrator, Mark was critical in the successful implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit—the most important health care reform in 40 years. He has also worked to ensure that price and quality information are available to consumers and led reforms that brought principles of private sector competition to Government programs, thereby moving the country toward a system in which

Americans will receive better care at lower overall prices.

Mark has been a trusted adviser, and he leaves behind a strong record of accomplishment. I wish all the best to Mark, his wife, Stephanie, and their children.

### **Proclamation 8046—National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, 2006**

*September 5, 2006*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

This year, we mark the fifth anniversary of the brutal and ruthless terrorist attacks carried out against our Nation on September 11, 2001. We will always remember the thousands of lives lost, and the innocent men, women, and children forever changed by those acts of evil. During these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we honor the heroism of the police officers, firefighters, rescue personnel, members of the military, and private citizens who responded selflessly in the face of terror. We also honor the courage and spirit of the mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and husbands and wives who continue to grieve for their irreplaceable loss.

As we pray for the families of the victims and reflect upon that defining moment in our history, we are inspired by the knowledge that from the pain and sorrow of that September morning rose a Nation united by our love for freedom. We remember that we are a people determined to defend our way of life and to care for our neighbors in need. The scenes of distress and devastation we witnessed in the heart of New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania were overcome by sacrifice, bravery, and compassion. We resolved to answer history's call to bring justice to our enemies and to ensure the survival and success of liberty. Since that day, we have confronted a murderous ideology by taking the fight to our adversaries and by spreading the universal hope of freedom to millions around the world.

We are grateful for the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our Armed

Forces who are advancing liberty and protecting our country, and we pray for their safety. We ask that God continue to comfort the families of those who have lost their lives or who have been injured while defending our freedom. We will succeed in this struggle against evil, and the legacy of peace we leave behind will be the greatest memorial to the victims of September 11, 2001, and all those who have paid the ultimate price while wearing our Nation's uniform.

On these Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we mourn with those who still mourn, and find comfort through faith. We give thanks to the Almighty for our liberty, and we pray for His blessing on all those who were lost and for strength in the work ahead. May God continue to watch over the United States of America, and may His will guide us in the days to come.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 8, through Sunday, September 10, 2006, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that the people of the United States and their places of worship mark these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance with memorial services, the ringing of bells, and evening candlelight remembrance vigils. I also invite the people of the world to share in these Days of Prayer and Remembrance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:40 a.m., September 7, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 8.

## **Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks**

*September 5, 2006*

Consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, in Proclamation 7463, with respect to the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, the Pentagon, and aboard United Airlines flight 93, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

Because the terrorist threat continues, the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, and the measures adopted to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond September 14, 2006. Therefore, I am continuing in effect for an additional year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, with respect to the terrorist threat.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
September 5, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 6, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 7.

## **Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks**

*September 5, 2006*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I

have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2006, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting the Patent Law Treaty and Regulations Under the Patent Law Treaty**

*September 5, 2006*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, subject to the reservation outlined below, I transmit herewith the Patent Law Treaty and Regulations Under the Patent Law Treaty (the "Treaty"), done at Geneva on June 1, 2000, between the Governments of 53 countries including the United States of America. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the Key Provisions of the Patent Law Treaty report prepared by the Department of State.

Strong intellectual property protection is a cornerstone of free trade and global market access. This Treaty promotes patent protection by codifying, harmonizing, and reducing the costs of taking the steps necessary for obtaining and maintaining patents throughout the world. The provisions set forth in the Treaty will safeguard U.S. commercial interests by making it easier for U.S. patent applicants and owners to protect their intellectual property worldwide.

The Treaty generally sets forth the maximum procedural requirements that can be

imposed on patent applicants, and in addition, provides standardized requirements for obtaining a filing date from which no party may deviate. Additionally, the Treaty provides that applicants cannot be required to hire representation for, among other things, the purpose of filing an application and that patents may not be revoked or invalidated because of noncompliance with certain application requirements, unless the noncompliance is a result of fraud. The Treaty does not limit the United States from providing patent requirements that are more favorable to the patent applicant or patent owner than those set forth in the Treaty or from prescribing requirements that are provided for in our substantive law relating to patents. Additionally, the Treaty is not intended to limit the United States from taking actions that it deems necessary for the preservation of its essential security interests.

This Treaty is in harmony with current U.S. patent laws and regulations, with minor exceptions to be addressed in proposed legislation. Because U.S. law does not require that each patent application apply to only one invention or inventive concept, and because the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office assesses that implementing a provision of the Treaty requiring "unity of invention" for all national applications would require a substantive and impractical change to our Patent Law, I recommend that the following reservation be included in the U.S. instrument of ratification, as allowed by the Treaty:

Pursuant to Article 23, the United States declares that Article 6(1) shall not apply to any requirement relating to unity of invention applicable under the Patent Cooperation Treaty to an international application.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Treaty and give its advice and consent to its ratification, subject to the reservation described above.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
September 5, 2006.

## **Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting**

*September 6, 2006*

I want to thank my Cabinet for what has been a very fruitful discussion. I thank you for your continued service to our country. Congress is coming back into town, and we welcome them back, and we look forward to working with them on a variety of matters.

One of the most important tasks is for Congress to recognize that we need the tools necessary to win this war on terror, and we'll continue to discuss with Congress ways to make sure that this Nation is capable of defending herself.

Secondly, I recognize this is a political season; there's elections coming down the road, but I made sure the Cabinet understands that we'll continue to address the concerns of the American people. That's what the people expect us to do. And those concerns include being fiscally wise with the people's money. So when Congress starts appropriating money, we will continue to urge them to be wise with the people's money.

We talked about the economy; we talked about energy; we talked about health care and a variety of other matters. I'm looking forward to working with Congress, Members of both political parties, to do the job that the American people expect us to do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

## **Remarks on the War on Terror**

*September 6, 2006*

Thank you. Thanks for the warm welcome. Welcome to the White House. Mr. Vice President, Secretary Rice, Attorney General Gonzales, Ambassador Negroponte, General Hayden, Members of the United States Congress, families who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks on our Nation, and my fellow citizens: Thanks for coming.

On the morning of September the 11th, 2001, our Nation awoke to a nightmare attack. Nineteen men armed with box cutters took control of airplanes and turned them into missiles. They used them to kill nearly

3,000 innocent people. We watched the Twin Towers collapse before our eyes, and it became instantly clear that we'd entered a new world and a dangerous new war.

The attacks of September the 11th horrified our Nation. And amid the grief came new fears and urgent questions: Who had attacked us? What did they want? And what else were they planning? Americans saw the destruction the terrorists had caused in New York and Washington and Pennsylvania, and they wondered if there were other terrorist cells in our midst poised to strike; they wondered if there was a second wave of attacks still to come.

With the Twin Towers and the Pentagon still smoldering, our country on edge, and a stream of intelligence coming in about potential new attacks, my administration faced immediate challenges. We had to respond to the attack on our country. We had to wage an unprecedented war against an enemy unlike any we had fought before. We had to find the terrorists hiding in America and across the world, before they were able to strike our country again. So in the early days and weeks after 9/11, I directed our Government's senior national security officials to do everything in their power, within our laws, to prevent another attack.

Nearly 5 years have passed since these—those initial days of shock and sadness, and we are thankful that the terrorists have not succeeded in launching another attack on our soil. This is not for the lack of desire or determination on the part of the enemy. As the recently foiled plot in London shows, the terrorists are still active, and they're still trying to strike America, and they're still trying to kill our people. One reason the terrorists have not succeeded is because of the hard work of thousands of dedicated men and women in our Government, who have toiled day and night, along with our allies, to stop the enemy from carrying out their plans. And we are grateful for these hard-working citizens of ours. Another reason the terrorists have not succeeded is because our Government has changed its policies and given our military, intelligence, and law enforcement personnel the tools they need to fight this enemy and protect our people and preserve our freedoms.

The terrorists who declared war on America represent no nation; they defend no territory; and they wear no uniform. They do not mass armies on borders or flotillas of warships on the high seas. They operate in the shadows of society. They send small teams of operatives to infiltrate free nations; they live quietly among their victims; they conspire in secret, and then they strike without warning. In this new war, the most important source of information on where the terrorists are hiding and what they are planning is the terrorists themselves.

Captured terrorists have unique knowledge about how terrorist networks operate. They have knowledge of where their operatives are deployed and knowledge about what plots are underway. This intelligence—this is intelligence that cannot be found any other place, and our security depends on getting this kind of information. To win the war on terror, we must be able to detain, question, and, when appropriate, prosecute terrorists captured here in America and on the battlefields around the world.

After the 9/11 attacks, our coalition launched operations across the world to remove terrorist safe havens and capture or kill terrorist operatives and leaders. Working with our allies, we've captured and detained thousands of terrorists and enemy fighters in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and other fronts of this war on terror. These enemy—these are enemy combatants who were waging war on our Nation. We have a right under the laws of war, and we have an obligation to the American people, to detain these enemies and stop them from rejoining the battle.

Most of the enemy combatants we capture are held in Afghanistan or in Iraq, where they're questioned by our military personnel. Many are released after questioning or turned over to local authorities—if we determine that they do not pose a continuing threat and no longer have significant intelligence value. Others remain in American custody near the battlefield to ensure that they don't return to the fight.

In some cases, we determine that individuals we have captured pose a significant threat or may have intelligence that we and our allies need to have to prevent new attacks. Many are Al Qaida operatives or

Taliban fighters trying to conceal their identities, and they withhold information that could save American lives. In these cases, it has been necessary to move these individuals to an environment where they can be held secretly, questioned by experts, and, when appropriate, prosecuted for terrorist acts.

Some of these individuals are taken to the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It's important for Americans and others across the world to understand the kind of people held at Guantanamo. These aren't common criminals or bystanders accidentally swept up on the battlefield. We have in place a rigorous process to ensure those held at Guantanamo Bay belong at Guantanamo. Those held at Guantanamo include suspected bombmakers, terrorist trainers, recruiters and facilitators, and potential suicide bombers. They are in our custody so they cannot murder our people. One detainee held at Guantanamo told a questioner questioning him—he said this: "I'll never forget your face. I will kill you, your brothers, your mother, and your sisters."

In addition to the terrorists held at Guantanamo, a small number of suspected terrorist leaders and operatives captured during the war have been held and questioned outside the United States, in a separate program operated by the Central Intelligence Agency. This group includes individuals believed to be the key architects of the September the 11th attacks and attacks on the USS *Cole*, an operative involved in the bombings of our Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and individuals involved in other attacks that have taken the lives of innocent civilians across the world. These are dangerous men with unparalleled knowledge about terrorist networks and their plans of new attacks. The security of our Nation and the lives of our citizens depend on our ability to learn what these terrorists know.

Many specifics of this program, including where these detainees have been held and the details of their confinement, cannot be divulged. Doing so would provide our enemies with information they could use to take retribution against our allies and harm our country. I can say that questioning the detainees in this program has given us information that has saved innocent lives by helping

us stop new attacks—here in the United States and across the world.

Today I'm going to share with you some of the examples provided by our intelligence community of how this program has saved lives, why it remains vital to the security of the United States and our friends and allies, and why it deserves the support of the United States Congress and the American people.

Within months of September the 11th, 2001, we captured a man named Abu Zubaydah. We believe that Zubaydah was a senior terrorist leader and a trusted associate of Usama bin Laden. Our intelligence community believes he had run a terrorist camp in Afghanistan where some of the 9/11 hijackers trained and that he helped smuggle Al Qaida leaders out of Afghanistan after coalition forces arrived to liberate that country. Zubaydah was severely wounded during the firefight that brought him into custody, and he survived only because of the medical care arranged by the CIA.

After he recovered, Zubaydah was defiant and evasive. He declared his hatred of America. During questioning, he at first disclosed what he thought was nominal information—and then stopped all cooperation. Well, in fact, the “nominal” information he gave us turned out to be quite important. For example, Zubaydah disclosed Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—or KSM—was the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks and used the alias Muktar. This was a vital piece of the puzzle that helped our intelligence community pursue KSM. Zubaydah also provided information that helped stop a terrorist attack being planned for inside the United States, an attack about which we had no previous information. Zubaydah told us that Al Qaida operatives were planning to launch an attack in the U.S. and provided physical descriptions of the operatives and information on their general location. Based on the information he provided, the operatives were detained—one while traveling to the United States.

We knew that Zubaydah had more information that could save innocent lives, but he stopped talking. As his questioning proceeded, it became clear that he had received training on how to resist interrogation. And so the CIA used an alternative set of proce-

dures. These procedures were designed to be safe, to comply with our laws, our Constitution, and our treaty obligations. The Department of Justice reviewed the authorized methods extensively and determined them to be lawful. I cannot describe the specific methods used—I think you understand why—if I did, it would help the terrorists learn how to resist questioning and to keep information from us that we need to prevent new attacks on our country. But I can say the procedures were tough, and they were safe and lawful and necessary.

Zubaydah was questioned using these procedures, and soon he began to provide information on key Al Qaida operatives, including information that helped us find and capture more of those responsible for the attacks on September the 11th. For example, Zubaydah identified one of KSM's accomplices in the 9/11 attacks—a terrorist named Ramzi bin al-Shibh. The information Zubaydah provided helped lead to the capture of bin al-Shibh. And together these two terrorists provided information that helped in the planning and execution of the operation that captured Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Once in our custody, KSM was questioned by the CIA using these procedures, and he soon provided information that helped us stop another planned attack on the United States. During questioning, KSM told us about another Al Qaida operative he knew was in CIA custody—a terrorist named Majid Khan. KSM revealed that Khan had been told to deliver \$50,000 to individuals working for a suspected terrorist leader named Hambali, the leader of Al Qaida's Southeast Asian affiliate known as JI. CIA officers confronted Khan with this information. Khan confirmed that the money had been delivered to an operative named Zubair and provided both a physical description and contact number for this operative.

Based on that information, Zubair was captured in June of 2003, and he soon provided information that helped lead to the capture of Hambali. After Hambali's arrest, KSM was questioned again. He identified Hambali's brother as the leader of a JI cell and Hambali's conduit for communications with Al Qaida. Hambali's brother was soon captured in Pakistan and in turn led us to a cell

of 17 Southeast Asian JI operatives. When confronted with the news that his terror cell had been broken up, Hambali admitted that the operatives were being groomed at KSM's request for attacks inside the United States—probably using airplanes.

During questioning, KSM also provided many details of other plots to kill innocent Americans. For example, he described the design of planned attacks on buildings inside the United States and how operatives were directed to carry them out. He told us the operatives had been instructed to ensure that the explosives went off at a point that was high enough to prevent the people trapped above from escaping out the windows.

KSM also provided vital information on Al Qaida's efforts to obtain biological weapons. During questioning, KSM admitted that he had met three individuals involved in Al Qaida's efforts to produce anthrax, a deadly biological agent—and he identified one of the individuals as a terrorist named Yazid. KSM apparently believed we already had this information, because Yazid had been captured and taken into foreign custody before KSM's arrest. In fact, we did not know about Yazid's role in Al Qaida's anthrax program. Information from Yazid then helped lead to the capture of his two principal assistants in the anthrax program. Without the information provided by KSM and Yazid, we might not have uncovered this Al Qaida biological weapons program or stopped this Al Qaida cell from developing anthrax for attacks against the United States.

These are some of the plots that have been stopped because of the information of this vital program. Terrorists held in CIA custody have also provided information that helped stop a planned strike on U.S. marines at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti—they were going to use an explosive laden water tanker. They helped stop a planned attack on the U.S. consulate in Karachi using car bombs and motorcycle bombs, and they helped stop a plot to hijack passenger planes and fly them into Heathrow or the Canary Wharf in London.

We're getting vital information necessary to do our jobs, and that's to protect the American people and our allies. Information from the terrorists in this program has helped

us to identify individuals that Al Qaida deemed suitable for Western operations, many of whom we had never heard about before. They include terrorists who were set to case targets inside the United States, including financial buildings in major cities on the east coast. Information from terrorists in CIA custody has played a role in the capture or questioning of nearly every senior Al Qaida member or associate detained by the U.S. and its allies since this program began. By providing everything from initial leads to photo identifications to precise locations of where terrorists were hiding, this program has helped us to take potential mass murderers off the streets before they were able to kill.

This program has also played a critical role in helping us understand the enemy we face in this war. Terrorists in this program have painted a picture of Al Qaida's structure and financing and communications and logistics. They identified Al Qaida's travel routes and safe havens and explained how Al Qaida's senior leadership communicates with its operatives in places like Iraq. They provided information that allows us—that has allowed us to make sense of documents and computer records that we have seized in terrorist raids. They've identified voices in recordings of intercepted calls and helped us understand the meaning of potentially critical terrorist communications.

The information we get from these detainees is corroborated by intelligence, and we've received—that we've received from other sources, and together this intelligence has helped us connect the dots and stop attacks before they occur. Information from the terrorists questioned in this program helped unravel plots and terrorist cells in Europe and in other places. It's helped our allies protect their people from deadly enemies. This program has been and remains one of the most vital tools in our war against the terrorists. It is invaluable to America and to our allies. Were it not for this program, our intelligence community believes that Al Qaida and its allies would have succeeded in launching another attack against the American homeland. By giving us information about terrorist plans we could not get anywhere else, this program has saved innocent lives.

This program has been subject to multiple legal reviews by the Department of Justice and CIA lawyers; they've determined it complied with our laws. This program has received strict oversight by the CIA's Inspector General. A small number of key leaders from both political parties on Capitol Hill were briefed about this program. All those involved in the questioning of the terrorists are carefully chosen, and they're screened from a pool of experienced CIA officers. Those selected to conduct the most sensitive questioning had to complete more than 250 additional hours of specialized training before they are allowed to have contact with a captured terrorist.

I want to be absolutely clear with our people and the world: The United States does not torture. It's against our laws, and it's against our values. I have not authorized it, and I will not authorize it. Last year, my administration worked with Senator John McCain, and I signed into law the Detainee Treatment Act, which established the legal standard for treatment of detainees wherever they are held. I support this act. And as we implement this law, our Government will continue to use every lawful method to obtain intelligence that can protect innocent people and stop another attack like the one we experienced on September the 11th, 2001.

The CIA program has detained only a limited number of terrorists at any given time, and once we've determined that the terrorists held by the CIA have little or no additional intelligence value, many of them have been returned to their home countries for prosecution or detention by their governments. Others have been accused of terrible crimes against the American people, and we have a duty to bring those responsible for these crimes to justice. So we intend to prosecute these men, as appropriate, for their crimes.

Soon after the war on terror began, I authorized a system of military commissions to try foreign terrorists accused of war crimes. Military commissions have been used by Presidents from George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt to prosecute war criminals, because the rules for trying enemy combatants in a time of conflict must be different from those for trying common criminals or

members of our own military. One of the first suspected terrorists to be put on trial by military commission was one of Usama bin Laden's bodyguards—a man named Hamdan. His lawyers challenged the legality of the military commission system. It took more than 2 years for this case to make its way through the courts. The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the military commissions we had designed, but this past June, the Supreme Court overturned that decision. The Supreme Court determined that military commissions are an appropriate venue for trying terrorists but ruled that military commissions needed to be explicitly authorized by the United States Congress.

So today I'm sending Congress legislation to specifically authorize the creation of military commissions to try terrorists for war crimes. My administration has been working with members of both parties in the House and Senate on this legislation. We put forward a bill that ensures these commissions are established in a way that protects our national security and ensures a full and fair trial for those accused. The procedures in the bill I am sending to Congress today reflect the reality that we are a nation at war and that it's essential for us to use all reliable evidence to bring these people to justice.

We're now approaching the 5-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and the families of those murdered that day have waited patiently for justice. Some of the families are with us today. They should have to wait no longer.

So I'm announcing today that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Abu Zubaydah, Ramzi bin al-Shibh, and 11 other terrorists in CIA custody have been transferred to the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. They are being held in the custody of the Department of Defense. As soon as Congress acts to authorize the military commissions I have proposed, the men our intelligence officials believe orchestrated the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on September the 11th, 2001, can face justice. We'll also seek to prosecute those believed to be responsible for the attack on the USS *Cole* and an operative believed to be involved in the bombings of



the American Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. With these prosecutions, we will send a clear message to those who kill Americans: No longer—how long it takes, we will find you, and we will bring you to justice.

These men will be held in a high-security facility at Guantanamo. The International Committee of the Red Cross is being advised of their detention and will have the opportunity to meet with them. Those charged with crimes will be given access to attorneys who will help them prepare their defense, and they will be presumed innocent. While at Guantanamo, they will have access to the same food, clothing, medical care, and opportunities for worship as other detainees. They will be questioned subject to the new U.S. Army Field Manual, which the Department of Defense is issuing today. And they will continue to be treated with the humanity that they denied others.

As we move forward with the prosecutions, we will continue to urge nations across the world to take back their nationals at Guantanamo who will not be prosecuted by our military commissions. America has no interest in being the world's jailer. But one of the reasons we have not been able to close Guantanamo is that many countries have refused to take back their nationals held at the facility. Other countries have not provided adequate assurances that their nationals will not be mistreated or they will not return to the battlefield, as more than a dozen people released from Guantanamo already have. We will continue working to transfer individuals held at Guantanamo and ask other countries to work with us in this process. And we will move toward the day when we can eventually close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

I know Americans have heard conflicting information about Guantanamo. Let me give you some facts. Of the thousands of terrorists captured across the world, only about 770 have ever been sent to Guantanamo. Of these, about 315 have been returned to other countries so far, and about 455 remain in our custody. They are provided the same quality of medical care as the American servicemembers who guard them. The International Committee of the Red Cross has the opportunity to meet privately with all who

are held there. The facility has been visited by government officials from more than 30 countries and delegations from international organizations as well. After the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe came to visit, one of its delegation members called Guantanamo "a model prison" where people are treated better than in prisons in his own country. Our troops can take great pride in the work they do at Guantanamo Bay, and so can the American people.

As we prosecute suspected terrorist leaders and operatives who have now been transferred to Guantanamo, we'll continue searching for those who have stepped forward to take their places. This Nation is going to stay on the offense to protect the American people. We will continue to bring the world's most dangerous terrorists to justice, and we will continue working to collect the vital intelligence we need to protect our country. The current transfers mean that there are now no terrorists in the CIA program. But as more high-ranking terrorists are captured, the need to obtain intelligence from them will remain critical. And having a CIA program for questioning terrorists will continue to be crucial to getting life-saving information.

Some may ask: Why are you acknowledging this program now? There are two reasons why I'm making these limited disclosures today. First, we have largely completed our questioning of the men, and to start the process for bringing them to trial, we must bring them into the open. Second, the Supreme Court's recent decision has impaired our ability to prosecute terrorists through military commissions and has put in question the future of the CIA program. In its ruling on military commissions, the Court determined that a provision of the Geneva Conventions known as Common Article Three applies to our war with Al Qaida. This article includes provisions that prohibit "outrages upon personal dignity" and "humiliating and degrading treatment." The problem is that these and other provisions of Common Article Three are vague and undefined, and each could be interpreted in different ways by American or foreign judges. And some believe our military and intelligence personnel

involved in capturing and questioning terrorists could now be at risk of prosecution under the War Crimes Act, simply for doing their jobs in a thorough and professional way.

This is unacceptable. Our military and intelligence personnel go face to face with the world's most dangerous men every day. They have risked their lives to capture some of the most brutal terrorists on Earth. And they have worked day and night to find out what the terrorists know so we can stop new attacks. America owes our brave men and women some things in return. We owe them their thanks for saving lives and keeping America safe. And we owe them clear rules, so they can continue to do their jobs and protect our people.

So today I'm asking Congress to pass legislation that will clarify the rules for our personnel fighting the war on terror. First, I'm asking Congress to list the specific, recognizable offenses that would be considered crimes under the War Crimes Act so our personnel can know clearly what is prohibited in the handling of terrorist enemies. Second, I'm asking that Congress make explicit that by following the standards of the Detainee Treatment Act, our personnel are fulfilling America's obligations under Common Article Three of the Geneva Conventions. Third, I'm asking that Congress make it clear that captured terrorists cannot use the Geneva Conventions as a basis to sue our personnel in courts—in U.S. courts. The men and women who protect us should not have to fear lawsuits filed by terrorists because they're doing their jobs.

The need for this legislation is urgent. We need to ensure that those questioning terrorists can continue to do everything within the limits of the law to get information that can save American lives. My administration will continue to work with the Congress to get this legislation enacted, but time is of the essence. Congress is in session just for a few more weeks, and passing this legislation ought to be the top priority.

As we work with Congress to pass a good bill, we will also consult with congressional leaders on how to ensure that the CIA program goes forward in a way that follows the law, that meets the national security needs of our country, and protects the brave men

and women we ask to obtain information that will save innocent lives. For the sake of our security, Congress needs to act and update our laws to meet the threats of this new era. And I know they will.

We're engaged in a global struggle, and the entire civilized world has a stake in its outcome. America is a nation of law. And as I work with Congress to strengthen and clarify our laws here at home, I will continue to work with members of the international community who have been our partners in this struggle. I've spoken with leaders of foreign governments and worked with them to address their concerns about Guantanamo and our detention policies. I'll continue to work with the international community to construct a common foundation to defend our nations and protect our freedoms.

Free nations have faced new enemies and adjusted to new threats before, and we have prevailed. Like the struggles of the last century, today's war on terror is, above all, a struggle for freedom and liberty. The adversaries are different, but the stakes in this war are the same: We're fighting for our way of life and our ability to live in freedom. We're fighting for the cause of humanity against those who seek to impose the darkness of tyranny and terror upon the entire world. And we're fighting for a peaceful future for our children and our grandchildren.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1, 2003; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan, on September 11, 2002; and Nurjaman Riduan Isamuddin (also known as Hambali), Al Qaida's chief operational planner in Southeast Asia, who was captured in Thailand on August 11, 2003.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting Draft Legislation on  
Military Commissions**

September 6, 2006

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit for the consideration of the Congress draft legislation entitled the “Military Commissions Act of 2006.” This draft legislation responds to the Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, 126 S. Ct. 2749 (2006), by establishing for the first time in our Nation’s history a comprehensive statutory structure for military commissions that would allow for the fair and effective prosecution of captured members of al Qaeda and other unlawful enemy combatants. The Act also addresses the Supreme Court’s holding that Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions applies to the conflict with al Qaeda by providing definitions rooted in United States law for the standards of conduct prescribed by Common Article 3.

The military commission procedures contained in this draft legislation reflect the result of an extended deliberation both within the executive branch and between representatives of my Administration and Members of Congress. The draft legislation would establish a Code of Military Commissions that tracks the courts-martial procedures of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but that departs from those procedures where they would be impracticable or inappropriate for the trial of unlawful enemy combatants captured in the midst of an ongoing armed conflict, under circumstances far different from those typically encountered by military prosecutors.

Five years after the mass murders of 9/11, it is time for the United States to begin to prosecute captured al Qaeda members for the serious crimes that many of them have committed against United States citizens and our allies abroad. As we provide terrorists the justice and due process that they denied their victims, we demonstrate that our Nation remains committed to the rule of law.

I ask that the Congress carefully consider this legislation and respectfully urge its speedy passage for enactment into law.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
September 6, 2006.

**Remarks to the Georgia Public Policy  
Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia**

September 7, 2006

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Thank you. Sonny, thanks for the introduction. Thanks for your leadership. It’s always a pleasure to be in Georgia. I appreciate you coming, and I appreciate this chance to speak here before the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. And I thank you for what you do. For 15 years, you’ve been researching and writing on issues that matter. You take on tough questions; you apply innovative thinking; you push for action; and you do it all without regard to politics. Come on up to Washington. [*Laughter*]

I have come here to Atlanta to continue a series of speeches marking the fifth anniversary of the September the 11th, 2001, attacks. Last week at the American Legion Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, I outlined the ideological struggle between the forces of moderation and liberty and the forces of extremism across the Middle East. On Tuesday in Washington, I described our enemies in their own words and set forward a strategy to defeat them. Yesterday I announced that the men we believe orchestrated the 9/11 attacks have been transferred to Guantanamo Bay, and I called on the United States Congress to pass legislation creating military commissions to bring these people to justice.

Today I’ll deliver a progress report on the steps we have taken since 9/11 to protect the American people, steps we’ve taken to go on the offense against the enemy, and steps we are taking to win this war on terror.

Today I traveled with two United States Senators who clearly see the issues before us, and I appreciate and I’m proud to be associated and friends with Senator Saxby Chambliss and Senator Johnny Isakson.

I do thank Brenda Fitzgerald for encouraging the board of governors to invite me and for taking the lead for the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. And I want to thank the board of governors for your kind invitation. I appreciate very much being with Major General Terry Nesbitt. He's the director of the Georgia office of Homeland Security.

Joining us today is a man I got to know quite well under trying circumstances, and that would be Lieutenant General Russ Honore of the United States Army—Honore. He issued one of the great lines I've ever heard, and you're welcome to use it—"Don't get stuck on stupid." It's good advice for people in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

I welcome the other State and local officials here. Thank you all for letting me come by.

In Atlanta, you know the pain of terrorism firsthand. This summer, you marked the 10th anniversary of the bombing in Centennial Olympic Park. That was the act of one madman. Next Monday is the fifth anniversary of an attack on our Nation, and on that day, we awoke to a new kind of terrorism. Instead of a localized strike, we faced multiple attacks by a network of sophisticated and suicidal extremists. In the years since, we've come to learn more about our enemies. We've learned more about their dark and distorted vision of Islam. We've learned about their plan to build a radical Islamic empire stretching from Spain to Indonesia. We learned about their dreams to kill more Americans on an even more devastating scale. That's what they have told us. As President, I took an oath to protect this country, and I will continue using every element of national power to pursue our enemies and to prevent attacks on the United States of America.

Over the past 5 years, we have waged an unprecedented campaign against terror at home and abroad, and that campaign has succeeded in protecting the homeland. At the same time, we've seen our enemies strike in Britain, Spain, India, Turkey, Russia, Indonesia, Jordan, Israel, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other countries. We've seen that the extremists have not given up on their dreams to strike our Nation. Just last month, police and intelligence officers from Great Britain, with the help of the United States and other allies,

helped break up a terror cell in London. Working together, we foiled a suicide plot to blow up passenger planes on their way to the United States.

Many Americans look at these events and ask the same question: Five years after 9/11, are we safer? The answer is, yes, America is safer. We are safer because we've taken action to protect the homeland. We are safer because we are on the offense against our enemies overseas. We're safer because of the skill and sacrifice of the brave Americans who defend our people. Yet 5 years after 9/11, America still faces determined enemies, and we will not be safe until those enemies are finally defeated.

One way to assess whether we're safer is to look at what we have done to fix the problems that the 9/11 attacks revealed. And so today I'll deliver a progress report. The information about the attacks in this report is largely drawn from the work of the 9/11 Commission and other investigations of the terrorist attacks. I'll begin by looking back at four key stages of the 9/11 plot, the gaps in our defenses that each stage exposed, and the ways we've addressed those gaps to make this country safer.

In the first key stage of the 9/11 plot, Al Qaida conceived and planned the attacks from abroad. In the summer of 1996, Usama bin Laden issued a *fatwa* from Afghanistan that said this: "By the grace of Allah, a safe base here is now available." And he declared war on the United States. A month later, the Taliban seized control of Kabul and formed an alliance with Al Qaida. The Taliban permitted bin Laden to operate a system of training camps in the country which ultimately instructed more than 10,000 in terrorist tactics. Bin Laden was also free to cultivate a global financing network that provided money for terrorist operations. With his fellow Al Qaida leaders, Usama bin Laden used his safe haven to prepare a series of attacks on America and on the civilized world.

In August 1998, they carried out their first big strike, the bombing of two U.S. Embassies in east Africa, which killed more than 200 people and wounded thousands. Shortly after the Embassy bombings, bin Laden approved another attack. This one was called

the “planes operation.” Our intelligence agencies believe it was suggested by a fellow terrorist named Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—or KSM. KSM’s plan was to hijack commercial airliners and to crash them into buildings in the United States. He and bin Laden selected four preliminary targets—the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the Capitol Building, and the White House. The “planes operation” would become the 9/11 plot, and by the middle of 1999, KSM was at work recruiting suicide operatives to hijack the airplanes.

The first stage of the 9/11 plot exposed serious flaws in America’s approach to terrorism. Most important, it showed that by allowing states to give safe haven to terrorist networks that we made a grave mistake. So after 9/11, I set forth a new doctrine: Nations that harbor or support terrorists are equally guilty as the terrorists and will be held to account. And the Taliban found out what we meant. With Afghan allies, we removed the Taliban from power, and we closed down the Al Qaida training camps. Five years later, Taliban and Al Qaida remnants are desperately trying to retake control of that country. They will fail. They will fail because the Afghan people have tasted freedom. They will fail because their vision is no match for a democracy accountable to its citizens. They will fail because they are no match for the military forces of a free Afghanistan, a NATO Alliance, and the United States of America.

Our offensive against the terrorists includes far more than military might. We use financial tools to make it harder for them to raise money. We’re using diplomatic pressure, and our intelligence operations are used to disrupt the day-to-day functions of Al Qaida. Because we’re on the offense, it is more difficult for Al Qaida to transfer money through the international banking system. Because we’re on the offense, Al Qaida can no longer communicate openly without fear of destruction. And because we’re on the offense, Al Qaida can no longer move widely without fearing for their lives.

I learned a lot of lessons on 9/11, and one lesson is this: In order to protect this country, we will keep steady pressure, unrelenting pressure on Al Qaida and its associates. We

will deny them safe haven. We will find them, and we will bring them to justice.

Key advantages that Al Qaida enjoyed while plotting the 9/11 attack in Afghanistan have been taken away, and so have many of their most important leaders, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. For the past 3 years, KSM has been in the custody of the Central Intelligence Agency. He’s provided valuable intelligence that has helped us kill or capture Al Qaida terrorists and stop attacks on our Nation. I authorized his transfer to Guantanamo Bay, and the sooner the Congress authorizes the military commissions I have called for, the sooner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed will receive the justice he deserves.

In the second key stage of the 9/11 plot, KSM and bin Laden identified, trained, and deployed operatives to the United States. According to the 9/11 Commission, two of the first suicide hijackers to join the plot were men named Hazmi and Mihdhar. KSM’s plan was to send these two men to infiltrate the United States and train as pilots so they could fly the hijacked planes into buildings. Both operatives attended a special training camp in Afghanistan, and then traveled to Malaysia and Thailand to prepare for their trip to America. KSM doctored Hazmi’s passport to help him enter the United States. And from Thailand, the two men flew to Los Angeles in January of 2000. There they began carrying out the plot from inside our Nation. They made phone calls to planners of the attack, overseas, and they awaited the arrival of the other killers.

Our intelligence community picked up some of this information. CIA analysts saw links between Mihdhar and Al Qaida, and officers tracked Mihdhar to Malaysia. Weeks later, they discovered that he had been accompanied by Hazmi and that Hazmi had flown to Los Angeles. This gave the CIA reason to be suspicious of both these men. Yet at the time, there was no consolidated terrorist watch list available to all Federal agencies and State and local governments. So even though intelligence officers suspected that both men were dangerous, the information was not readily accessible to American law enforcement, and the operatives slipped into our country.

Since 9/11, we've addressed the gaps in our defenses that these operatives exploited. We've upgraded technology. We've added layers of security to correct weaknesses in our immigration and visa systems. Today, visa applicants like Hazmi or Mihdhar would have to appear face to face for interviews. They would be fingerprinted and screened against an extensive database of known or suspected terrorists. And when they arrived on American soil, they would be checked again to make sure their fingerprints matched the fingerprints on their visas. Those procedures did not exist before 9/11. With these steps, we made it harder for these—people like these guys to infiltrate our country.

Nine-Eleven also revealed the need for a coordinated approach to terrorist watch lists. So we established common criteria for posting terrorists on a consolidated terrorist watch list that is now widely available across Federal, State, and local jurisdictions. Today, intelligence community officials would immediately place terrorist suspects like Hazmi and Mihdhar on a consolidated watch list. And the information from this list is now accessible at airports, consulates, border crossings, and for State and local law enforcement. By putting terrorists' names on a consolidated watch list, we've improved our ability to monitor and to track and detain operatives before they can strike.

Another top priority after 9/11 was improving our ability to monitor terrorist communications. Remember, I told you the two had made phone calls outside the country. At my direction, the National Security Agency created the terrorist surveillance program. Before 9/11, our intelligence professionals found it difficult to monitor international communications such as those between the Al Qaida operatives secretly in the United States and planners of the 9/11 attacks. The terrorist surveillance program helps protect Americans by allowing us to track terrorist communications so we can learn about threats like the 9/11 plot before it is too late.

Last year, details of the terrorist surveillance program were leaked to the news media, and the program was then challenged in court. That challenge was recently upheld by a Federal district judge in Michigan. My

administration strongly disagrees with the ruling. We are appealing it, and we believe our appeal will be successful. Yet a series of protracted legal challenges would put a heavy burden on this critical and vital program. The surest way to keep the program is to get explicit approval from the United States Congress. So today I'm calling on the Congress to promptly pass legislation providing additional authority for the terrorist surveillance program, along with broader reforms in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

When the FISA was passed in 1978, there was no widely accessible Internet, and almost all calls were made on fixed landlines. Since then, the nature of communications has changed quite dramatically. The terrorists who want to harm America can now buy disposable cell phones and open anonymous e-mail addresses. Our laws need to change to take these changes into account. If Al Qaida commander or associate is calling into the United States, we need to know why they're calling. And Congress needs to pass legislation supporting this program.

In the third key stage of the 9/11 plot, the rest of the 19 Al Qaida operatives arrived in the United States. The first two hijackers in America, Hazmi and Mihdhar, had given up flight training, so Khalid Sheikh Mohammed selected operatives from a cell in Germany to become the new pilots. These men, led by Mohammed Atta, obtained visas, and they traveled to the United States, and then they enrolled in flight training schools. Atta and his team visited airports and flight training centers along the east coast, including here in Georgia. Atta was pulled over by police. On his way—one of his co-conspirators, the terrorist who would go on to pilot Flight 93, was also stopped. Yet there was no information that the men were dangerous, so the officers treated the encounters as routine traffic stops. By September the 10th, the hijackers had moved to their final destinations near major airports and were ready to execute their attacks.

As these terrorists finalized their plans, Al Qaida dispatched another operative named Moussaoui to the United States. Moussaoui took flight lessons in Oklahoma and Minnesota. He communicated with an Al Qaida leader abroad. But he remained isolated from

the other operatives and was not a suicide hijacker on the day of the attacks, didn't participate in the 9/11 attacks.

During this stage, law enforcement and intelligence authorities failed to share the insights they were learning about the 9/11 plot. For example, the FBI intelligence analyst working at the CIA came across information that raised her suspicions about Hazmi and Mihdhar. But she did not relay her concerns to FBI criminal investigators because of a wall—or “the wall” that had developed over the years between law enforcement and intelligence. You see, throughout the Government, there was an assumption that law enforcement and intelligence were legally prohibited from sharing vital information. At one point, key officials from the CIA, the intelligence branch of the FBI, the criminal branch of the FBI were all sitting around the same table in New York, but they believed that “the wall” prohibited them from telling each other what they knew about Hazmi and Mihdhar, and so they never put the pieces together.

By the summer of 2001, intelligence about a possible terrorist attack was increasing. In July, an FBI agent in Phoenix noted that a large number of suspicious men were attending flight schools in Arizona. He speculated that this activity might be part of a bin Laden plan to attack inside the United States. The following month, the FBI field office in Minneapolis began an investigation into Moussaoui. He was soon arrested on immigration charges, and Minneapolis agents sought a FISA warrant to search his computer. FBI headquarters turned them down, saying the case did not justify a FISA request because there was not enough intelligence tying Moussaoui to a foreign power. The FBI later learned that Moussaoui had attended an Al Qaida training camp in Afghanistan, but the information didn't arrive until September the 13th.

It is clear, after 9/11, that something needed to be done to the system; something needed to be changed to protect the American people. And it is clear to me that this started with transforming the FBI to ensure that it effectively and quickly respond to potential terrorist attacks. And so now the top priority of the FBI, since 9/11—the culture of that

important agency, full of decent people, has changed. The top priority is to protect the American people from terrorist attack. The Bureau has hired large numbers of counterterrorism agents and analysts. They're focusing resources on what they need to do to protect America. They created a unified National Security Branch to coordinate terrorist investigations. They expanded the number of Joint Terrorism Task Forces. And the Bureau is submitting more FISA requests in terrorist cases. In other words, they understand the challenge, and the FBI is changing to meet those challenges. The FBI is responding to terrorist threats like Moussaoui more quickly, more effectively, and with more resources. At every level, America's law enforcement officers now have a clear goal—to identify, locate, and stop terrorists before they can kill again.

Since the attacks, we've also worked with Congress to do something about that wall that prevented intelligence and criminal investigators from talking to each other. The wall made no sense. It reflected an old way of thinking. And so I called upon Congress to pass a piece of legislation that would tear down the wall, and that was called the PATRIOT Act. The PATRIOT Act has increased the flow of information within our Government, and it has helped break up terrorist cells in the United States of America. And the United States Congress was right to renew the terrorist act—the PATRIOT Act, the terrorist prevention act called the PATRIOT Act.

We created the National Counterterrorism Center, where law enforcement and intelligence personnel work side by side in the same headquarters. This center hosts secure video teleconferences every day that allow for seamless communication among the FBI, the CIA, and other agencies. Now officials with critical threat information are sitting at the same table and sharing information. We created the position of the Director of National Intelligence to operate the intelligence community as a single unified enterprise. We set up the Terrorist Screening Center, which maintains the Government's master list of suspected terrorists and helps get this information in the hands of State and local law enforcement. Today, a police officer who

stops a driver for a routine traffic violation can access terrorist watch lists and be automatically directed to the Terrorist Screening Center if there's a match.

We've learned the lessons of September the 11th. We're changing how people can work together. We're modernizing the system. We're working to connect the dots to stop the terrorists from hurting America again.

The fourth and final stage of the 9/11 plot came on the morning of the attack. Starting around 6:45, the 19 hijackers, including Hazmi and Mihdhar, checked in, cleared security, and boarded commercial jets bound for the west coast. Some of the hijackers were flagged by the passenger prescreening system. But because the security rules at the time focused on preventing bombs on airplanes, the only precaution required was to hold the operatives' checked baggage until they boarded the airplane. Several hijackers were also carrying small knives or box cutters, and when they reached the security checkpoints, they set off metal detectors. The screeners wanded them but let them board their planes without verifying what had set off the alarms. When the flights took off, the men hijacked each plane in a similar way: They stabbed or subdued the pilots and crew; they seized control of the cockpit; and they started flying the airplane. By 9:03 a.m., the hijackers had driven two of the flights in the World Trade Center. By 9:37, they had struck the Pentagon. And shortly after 10 a.m., the fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. The passengers realized what was happening, and they rose up against their captors. These brave passengers saved countless lives on the ground; they likely spared the Capitol or the White House from destruction; and they delivered America its first victory in the war on terror.

We have taken many steps to address the security gaps that the hijackers exploited that morning. We created the Transportation Security Administration to ensure that every passenger and every bag is screened. We increased the number of Federal air marshals on domestic and international flights. We trained and authorized thousands of pilots to carry firearms. We hardened cockpit doors to prevent terrorists from gaining access to

the controls. We merged 22 Government agencies into a single Department of Homeland Security and tripled spending for homeland security on our airlines, on our ports, and our borders and other critical areas. We will continue to provide the resources necessary to secure this homeland.

Even if all the steps I've outlined this morning had been taken before 9/11, no one can say for sure that we would have prevented the attack. We can say that if America had these reforms in place in 2001, the terrorists would have found it harder to plan and finance their operations, harder to slip into the country undetected, and harder to board the airplanes and take control of the cockpits and succeed in striking their targets.

We are grateful to all those who have worked to implement these important reforms. We're grateful to our Federal and State and local law enforcement officers who are working tirelessly to protect our country. We're grateful to all the intelligence and homeland security and military personnel. Together these dedicated men and women are keeping their fellow Americans safe, and Americans are proud of their important service to our country.

On the morning of 9/11, we saw that the terrorists have to be right only once to kill our people, while we have to be right every time to stop them. So we had to make a larger choice about how to respond to the threats to our country. Some suggested that our effort should be purely defensive, hunkering down behind extreme homeland security and law enforcement measures. Others argue that we should respond overseas, but that our action should be limited to direct retaliation for 9/11. I strongly disagree with both approaches. Nine-Eleven lifted the veil on a threat that is far broader and more dangerous than we saw that morning, an enemy that was not sated by the destruction inflicted that day and is determined to strike again. To answer this threat and to protect our people, we need more than retaliation; we need more than a reaction to the last attack; we need to do everything in our power to stop the next attack.

And so America has gone on the offense across the world. And here are some of the results. We've captured or killed many of the



most significant Al Qaida members and associates. We've killed Al Qaida's most visible and aggressive leader to emerge after 9/11, the terrorist Zarqawi in Iraq. We've kept the terrorists from achieving their key goal, to overthrow governments across the broader Middle East and to seize control. Instead, the governments they targeted—such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia—have become some of the most valuable allies in the war on terror. These countries are joined by the largest coalition in the history of warfare—more than 90 nations determined to find the terrorists, to dry up their funds, to stop their plots, and to bring them to justice.

This coalition includes two nations that used to sponsor terror but now help us fight it—the democratic nations of Afghanistan and Iraq. In Afghanistan, President Karzai's elected Government is fighting our common enemies. In showing the courage he's showing, he's inspired millions across the region. In Iraq, Prime Minister Maliki's unity Government is fighting Al Qaida and the enemies of Iraq's democracy. They're taking increasing responsibility for the security of their free country.

The fighting in Iraq has been difficult, and it has been bloody, and some say that Iraq is a diversion from the war on terror. The terrorists disagree. Usama bin Laden has proclaimed that the "third world war is raging" in Iraq. Al Qaida leaders have declared that Baghdad will be the capital of the new caliphate that they wish to establish across the broader Middle East. It's hard to believe that extremists would make large journeys across dangerous borders to endure heavy fighting and to blow themselves up on the streets of Baghdad for a so-called "diversion." The terrorists know that the outcome in the war on terror will depend on the outcome in Iraq. And so to protect our citizens, the free world must succeed in Iraq.

As we fight the enemies of a free Iraq, we must also ensure that Al Qaida, its allies, and the extremists never get their hands on the tools of mass murder. When we saw the damage the terrorists inflicted on 9/11, our thoughts quickly turned to the devastation that could have been caused with weapons of mass destruction. So we launched the Proliferation Security Initiative—a coalition of

more than 70 countries that are cooperating to stop shipments related to deadly weapons. Together with Russia, we're working on a new Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. We worked with Great Britain to persuade Libya to give up its nuclear weapons program, and now the components of that program are secured right here in the United States. We uncovered the black market nuclear network of A.Q. Khan, who was shipping equipment to Iran and North Korea—that network is now out of business. And now the world is uniting to send a clear message to the regime in Tehran: Iran must end its support of terror;; it must stop defying its international obligations; and it must not obtain a nuclear weapon.

Our enemies have fought relentlessly these past 5 years, and they have a record of their own. Bin Laden and his deputy Zawahiri are still in hiding. Al Qaida has continued its campaign of terror with deadly attacks that have targeted the innocent, including large numbers of fellow Muslims. The terrorists and insurgents in Iraq have killed American troops and thousands of Iraqis. Syria and Iran have continued their support for terror and extremism. Hizballah has taken innocent life in Israel and succeeded briefly in undermining Lebanon's democratic Government. Hamas is standing in the way of peace with Israel. And the extremists have led an aggressive propaganda campaign to spread lies about America and incite Muslim radicalism. The enemies of freedom are skilled, and they are sophisticated, and they are waging a long and determined war. The free world must understand the stakes of this struggle. The free world must support young democracies. The free world must confront the evil of these extremists. The free world must draw full measure of our strength and resources to prevail.

We see that full measure and the strength of this Nation in the men and women in uniform who fight this war and we have—and who have given their lives in the cause of liberty and freedom. One of these soldiers was a young lieutenant named Noah Harris, who was killed last summer in Iraq when his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb. Noah grew up here in Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia. He volunteered

for the Army after September the 11th, 2001. He told his dad that people had an obligation to serve a cause higher than themselves. In Iraq, Lieutenant Harris was an officer known for his toughness and his skill in battle and for the Beanie Babies that he carried with him to hand out to the Iraqi children. He was also known for the photo of his parents' home in Ellijay that he used as a screensaver on his computer. When his troops asked why he chose that picture, he explained, "That is why I'm here."

Lieutenant Harris understood the stakes in Iraq. He knew that to protect his loved ones at home, America must defeat our enemies overseas. If America pulls out of Iraq before the Iraqis can defend themselves, the terrorists will follow us here, home. The best way to honor the memory of brave Americans like Lieutenant Harris is to complete the mission they began—so we will stay; we will fight; and we will win in Iraq.

The war on terror is more than a military conflict; it is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. And we're only in its opening stages. To win this struggle, we have to defeat the ideology of the terrorists with a more hopeful vision. So a central element in our strategy is the freedom agenda. We know from history that free nations are peaceful nations. We know that democracies do not attack each other and that young people growing up in a free and hopeful society are less likely to fall under the sway of radicalism. And so we're taking the side of democratic leaders and reformers across the Middle East. We're supporting the voices of tolerance and moderation in the Muslim world. We're standing with mothers and fathers in every culture who want to see their children grow up in a caring and peaceful world. And by leading the cause of freedom in the vital region, we will change the conditions that give rise to radicalism and hatred and terror. We will replace violent dictatorships with peaceful democracies. We'll make America, the Middle East, and the world more secure.

In the early days after 9/11, I told the American people that this would be a long war, a war that would look different from others we have fought, with difficulties and setbacks along the way. The past 5 years have proven that to be true. The past 5 years have

also shown what we can achieve when our Nation acts with confidence and resolve and clear purpose. We've learned the lessons of 9/11, and we have addressed the gaps in our defenses exposed by that attack. We've gone on the offense against our enemies and transformed former adversaries into allies. We have put in place the institutions needed to win this war. Five years after September the 11th, 2001, America is safer, and America is winning the war on terror. With vigilance, determination, courage, we will defeat the enemies of freedom, and we will leave behind a more peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:24 a.m. at the Cobb Galleria Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia; Brenda Fitzgerald, chairman, board of governors, Georgia Public Policy Foundation; Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1, 2003; U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan Anna Diggs Taylor; Zacarias Moussaoui, an Al Qaida operative who was sentenced on May 4 for helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate. He also referred to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission).

### **Remarks at a Reception for Congressional Candidate Max Burns in Pooler, Georgia**

*September 7, 2006*

Thanks for coming. I want to thank you all for coming and joining me in supporting my friend Max Burns to be the next Congressman from this district.

Max, this is a good sign that so many people would show up. [*Laughter*] And I thank you for supporting him. I know him quite well. See, as he mentioned, we have worked

together before. He's not an unknown quantity. You don't have to guess about his political philosophy. You don't have to worry about whether he will do the right thing. Max Burns is a man who is the right man to represent the 12th Congressional District for the State of Georgia. And I want to thank you for giving him this strong support.

Max not—I not only think Max is the right guy, but so does Laura. [*Laughter*] She sends her love to the Burns family, to Lora and Max. She sends her thanks to all of you. And she reminded me to remind—to thank you for the fantastic experience we had down here in 2004. If you ever want to host an international conference, I strongly suggest this part of the country. The G-8 was a great success, primarily because of the beauty of the coastline and, more importantly, the warmth of the people here on the coastline. And so we're proud to be back in Savannah. This is good country with good people. And I'm proud to be back, and I'm real proud to be supporting Max.

Today I'm traveling from Atlanta, where I gave a speech, the third of three speeches on what we're doing to secure this country, and I traveled over on Air Force One with a man who is doing a fabulous job as the Governor of an important State, and that's Governor Sonny Perdue. Sonny, thanks for coming. He's a straightforward fellow. He's the kind of guy, frankly, that the Texas voters would be comfortable with. [*Laughter*] He's no-nonsense. He's down-to-earth. What you see is what you get. And even though he didn't ask, I do want to remind you to support him for his reelection. He deserves it.

Max is going to be working with a really important and a very fine senatorial group of folks from Georgia. I know firsthand because I work with them all the time. This State has done a very smart thing in sending Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson to the United States Senate. I'm proud they're here, and I thank them for coming.

I'm looking forward to getting my instructions on Air Force One flying back to Washington. [*Laughter*] They're not shy about telling me what's on their mind, and it usually starts with, "Here's what's best for Georgia."

I'm proud to be here with Eric Johnson, president pro tem of the Georgia State Sen-

ate. Thanks for coming, senator. Tommie Williams, who is the majority leader of the Georgia State Senate, is with us. Senator, thank you for coming as well.

I know Max appreciates the statehouse people supporting him. I know he is proud to have the support of those who run for office themselves. It's a good sign. When people have been out there knocking on doors saying, "I'm for this man for Congress," they know what the grassroots are thinking; they know what the people want. The people want Max Burns to return to the United States Congress, and so do I.

Swainsboro mayor, Mayor Charles Schwabe is with us today. Mayor, thank you for coming. I appreciate Karen Handel, who's the candidate for secretary of state, joining us today. Perry McGuire, the candidate for the attorney general for the State of Georgia, is with us as well. Brent Brown and Gary Black—they're colorful characters—[*laughter*—running for the labor commissioner and agriculture commissioner.

I appreciate—let me just say this—I appreciate all of you running statewide. It's hard work. I know you want me to say this—these folks need your help too. It's not easy to be a candidate; it just isn't. And when you find somebody as honest as Max, who's willing to step up there and run, I believe you owe him more than just writing a check; I believe you owe him putting up those signs. That's what I believe. I believe you owe him time, if you don't mind me saying so. He's counting on it, and so am I. It's important to have good, strong, decent, honorable people like Max Burns representing you in the United States Congress.

I want to thank Mike Wiggins, the candidate for the Georgia Supreme Court. I appreciate you being here, Mike.

And finally, I can't—I want to thank the original members of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. I want to thank the museum director. This is a spectacular facility, and we're grateful that we could use it.

These are historic times in which we live. These are—and that's why it's important to have people in the Congress who clearly see the challenges this Nation faces. We are a nation at war. I can't tell you how much I wish I could come to Savannah, Georgia, and

say we weren't at war. I wish I could report that to you, but I can't.

It should have been clear to the American people that we're still under threat when a couple of weeks ago, working with Great Britain, we uncovered yet another plot. People were going to get on airplanes bound for the United States and destroy them because they can't stand what we believe. We're facing ideologues.

In other words, these are people that have a belief system. The best way to understand the belief system they have is to think opposite of what we believe. We believe in the freedom of people to worship. See, you're equally American if you're Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, agnostic, whatever. You're equally American. You have the right to choose. The people that face us, the radicals and extremists who attack us, believe you ought to worship one way, the way they believe, or else you're condemned. We believe in people being able to express themselves in the public square. We believe in dissent. We believe in the freedom of the press. We believe in freedom, and they don't.

I will be in New York City and in Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon next Monday with Laura. It is a day for us to remember the sorrow and the horror of that day. It's a day for us to remember the incredible bravery of first-responders who were willing to rush into danger to save life. It's a day to remember those on the airplane that drove that airplane into the ground, which was the first victory in the war on terror.

And it's also a day to remember the lessons learned. And the first lesson learned from that day is that the most important duty that those of us in the executive branch and the legislative branch have is to protect the American people from harm. And the best way to do so is to stay on the offense, is to defeat the enemy overseas so we do not have to face them here at home.

So I need Members of Congress who understand that we must give our troops and intelligence and those responsible for protecting America all the support they need. See, in order to stay on the offense, we have got to support those on the frontline of protecting the American people. We will use all assets to defend this Nation.

I learned another lesson, and that is, in order to protect the country, we must deny the enemy safe haven. See, the people were plotting and planning to attack us from Afghanistan, and so I laid out a doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, you're equally as guilty as the terrorist. You'll be an enemy of the United States, and we will hold you to account.

The Taliban found out what I meant, and so over the last 5 years, we liberated 25 million people in Afghanistan but, equally important, denied the radicals, the extremists, a safe haven from which to plot and plan. I need Members of Congress who understand—Members like Max Burns—that when the President says something, he better mean what he says, in order to make sure the world is a more peaceful place.

A lesson of September the 11th, an important lesson for the President and Members of Congress and people of the United States is that when we see a threat, we must take the threat seriously before they come to the United States and hurt us. I saw a threat in Iraq. I not only saw the threat; nations around the world saw the threat. Republicans and Democrats in the United States Congress saw the same threat. We went to the United Nations and said to Saddam Hussein, "Disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences." I believe that when the President and the world speaks, they better mean what they say, in order to keep the peace. I meant what it said. Saddam Hussein didn't. He ignored the demands of the free world. Our coalition removed Saddam Hussein from power, and the world is better off.

And now the question is, will the United States of America keep its word and help this young democracy survive? It's really the challenge. And it's hard work. I fully understand why Americans are troubled by the death and destruction they see on their television screens. I know that. You see, it's easy to understand because I understand the compassion of the United States of America. Isn't it a wonderful country when people suffer when they see a child maimed by an extremist's car bomb. It's the nature of our country. We care deeply. We suffer when one of our youngsters lose their life in combat.

The stakes in Iraq are incredibly high, however. It's really important that we succeed. It's important for a lot of reasons. If we were to leave before the job is done—and the job is this: to help this young democracy govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself; to help this young democracy that has formed because 12 million people went to the polls and said, "We're tired of tyranny; we're tired of subjugation; we want to be free."

That's the challenge. If we leave before the job is done, if we leave before this country's forces are able to defend themselves from the enemies of freedom who want to destroy this young democracy, if we forget the words of Usama bin Laden, who has declared that Iraq is the central part of this war on terror, if we ignore the words of Zawahiri—the number-two man in Al Qaida, who has said that what we're going to do is drive America out of Iraq; we'll be able to use Iraq then as a launching pad to destroy moderate governments in the Middle East; we'll be able to launch attacks against our enemy, America—if we ignore those words, if we ignore the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi people, we will have failed when history looks back.

We will have created a situation that is more dangerous than today. We will have said to our enemies that we will give you a key victory in the war on terror. We will have said to our friends, "You can't count on us." We will have said to the reformers and moderates in the Middle East who are so desperate to live in a society that is hopeful that "You don't matter." We will say to the troops and their families who have sacrificed, "Your sacrifice wasn't worth it."

Make no mistake about it, if the United States leaves before the mission is complete, the enemy will follow us here to America. The stakes are high. We will help this Government succeed, and we will achieve victory in Iraq.

I have defined the struggle we're in as the ideological struggle of the 21st century. You see, we face the task not only of protecting ourselves in the short run by staying on the offense and improving our intelligence and finding people before they come here; we also have a weapon for the long term. And

that is, in order to win an ideological struggle, you have to be able to have an ideology of hope that defeats an ideology of hate.

And we have such an ideology; we live it. It's an ideology based upon liberty. It's this notion that we strongly believe here in America that democracies don't war, that a free society is the best way to prevent radicalism and extremism from convincing people to become suiciders. Free societies equal hopeful societies.

You know, one of the challenges I face as your President is to make it absolutely clear—the stakes in this war on terror. And what I'm saying is, the stakes are more than just protecting you from attack. The stakes really are protecting future generations from attack. If we were to leave early and concede the Middle East to the enemies of freedom, imagine a world in which moderate governments get toppled. Imagine a world in which extremists and radicals have control of oil that they'll be able to use to inflict incredible economic damage on those of us who love liberty. Imagine a world in which state sponsors of terror have a nuclear weapon to be able to blackmail the world. Imagine such a world. I can see it coming if America does not do our duty and support moderation over extremism.

The other day in a speech, I said, "Fifty years from now, if the United States does not rise to the challenge, a generation of our citizens will look back and say, 'What happened? What happened to America?' " No President is going to allow this to happen, and I'm not going to allow this to happen. We will—[*applause*].

And I got great confidence in the outcome. You know, I guess the best way for me to describe why I'm confident is to tell you about my experience with Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. You might remember, recently I had the pleasurable experience of going to Elvis's place—[*laughter*]  
Graceland, right there in Memphis, Tennessee. Isn't that interesting? I thought it was. [*Laughter*] I invited him to go down to Graceland, and I'd never been to Graceland. I thought it would be kind of fun to go down there, and Laura wanted to go. [*Laughter*] More importantly, he wanted to go. See, he's an Elvis fan. [*Laughter*] I also wanted to send

a message to our fellow citizens that is relevant today, and here it is. One way to put it is—and can you imagine somebody in 1948, after World War II, after the bloody battles and fighting the Japanese—the sworn enemy of the United States—saying, “You know, I’ll make a prediction for you; someday, an American President is going to be taking a Japanese Prime Minister to the home of a famous American singer.” [*Laughter*] I don’t think that person would have had much credibility. [*Laughter*]

Something happened between when my dad and many of your relatives fought the Japanese in a bloody war, and the 43d President is on Air Force One flying down to see Elvis Presley. Something happened—Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy. Liberty has got the capacity to convert enemies into allies. That’s what history tells us. You know, when the Prime Minister and I flew down on Air Force One to Elvis’s place, we didn’t talk about Elvis. We talked about keeping the peace. We talked about North Korea. We talked about the fact that he had 1,000 troops helping this young democracy in Iraq, because he understands what I know—liberty can transform areas of hate into areas of hope. Someday, an American President is going to be sitting down with duly elected leaders in the Middle East talking about keeping the peace, and a generation of Americans will be better off.

Max Burns understands the stakes. He’s going to be the right guy to represent you in Washington. He also understands this: He, like me, understands that if you’re worried about whether your economy is going to grow, that the best way to encourage growth is to just let you keep more of your own money. See, we have a theory that says, if you have more money in your pocket to save, invest, or spend, the economy will grow.

And you know what? We tested our theory in the face of recession, corporate scandal, war, Katrina, high energy prices, and it works. Today, the national unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. We’ve added over 5½ million jobs since August of 2003. Our economy is the strongest of any major industrialized nation in the world. Lowering your taxes has worked.

I want to work with Max to make sure the tax cuts we passed are permanent. You know, it’s interesting in Washington; you’ll hear people say, “Well, we just need to raise your taxes to balance the budget.” That’s the language of a lot of folks up there. That’s not the way Washington works. Max understands this, as do I. Here’s the way it works: They’ll say, “Okay, we’ll raise your taxes, but we will figure out new ways to spend your money.” [*Laughter*] The best way to balance this budget—and we’re on the way to doing so. I said we’ll cut the deficit in half by 2009; we’re cutting it in half by 2008. The best way to balance the budget is to keep progrowth economic policies in place—that means low taxes and be wise about how we spend your money—is to set priorities about how we spend your money.

And here are my priorities. Here are my priorities. The first priority is to spend enough money to make sure we can protect the homeland. The Port of Savannah, I understand, is an important part of securing the homeland. You need a Congressman who can pick up the phone and say, “Mr. President, you came and talked about the Port of Savannah when you campaigned for me.” That Congressman is going to be Max Burns.

And the other priority is to make sure our troops, our brave men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America, have all it takes to defend the United States of America. Max understands that. He understands when you put a kid in harm’s way, they deserve the full support of the United States Government.

A couple other things I want to talk about right quick is—you know, the country shouldn’t fear the future. We really shouldn’t. As a matter of fact, we ought to welcome the future and shape the future. And the best way to remain the world’s leading economy, which I strongly think we ought to do, is not only keep taxes low and keep lawsuits reasonable, make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is strong—is to do some things on energy. I am concerned about the fact that we are addicted to foreign oil. I know that might sound odd for somebody from Texas to say, but I am a realistic fellow. See,

I get to see the consequences of needing energy from parts of the world that don't like us. That creates a national security issue.

The world is connected today so that when demand for crude oil goes up in China and India, it affects the price of gasoline in Savannah, Georgia. There are economic consequences, and there are national security consequences for being dependent on foreign sources of oil, and we have started a very strong initiative to diversify away from oil. And I'm going to work with Max to make sure that the ethanol initiative that we promoted—an initiative that says we want Georgia farmers growing energy on behalf of the American people.

Old Max said this—I thought this was an interesting quote—so for all the farmers who might be listening to what your Congressman thinks, he said, “I already know Georgia farmers are the best providers of food and fiber in the world, and if we can grow it, eat it, drink it, and wear it, then certainly we can burn it.” And we need to be selling that which Georgia grows.

Now, I know the trade is important for the Port of Savannah. I just want to tell you my view on trade. I believe it's in the interest of Georgia farmers—I know it's in the interest of Savannah, people who depend upon the Port of Savannah—to have more markets for U.S. goods.

We're 5 percent of the people in the world, in the United States. That means 95 percent of the world is potential customers. But trade means this to me—it just says—let me put it to you this way: I want the other people to treat us the way we treat them. That's all I ask. Treat us fairly. America can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere, so long as the playing field is level, and that's what we'll be working for in Washington, DC.

In order for America to be a great nation, we got to make sure that we have got an education system that is giving the kids the skills necessary to be able to compete in a global economy. And that starts with the early grades. It means we got to make sure a child can read, write, and add and subtract early, before it's too late.

I'm a strong believer in the No Child Left Behind Act. It believes in local control of schools. It says the Governor sets the policy.

But it also says that, in return for Federal money, you measure, so we can know. There's nothing worse than a system that guesses on whether a child has got the skills necessary to compete. We need to know early. And if we find a child that needs extra help, we'll provide extra help so no child is left behind.

Max is an educator. He knows what he's talking about when it comes to education. And 2007 is going to be an important year when it comes to reauthorizing No Child Left Behind. This district would be wise to send a good man, who knows what he's talking about when it comes to educating children, to Washington, DC.

Laura said, “Don't talk too long when you get up there.” I'm running out of oxygen, and so are you. [*Laughter*]

I do want to share one other thought about our country. I mean there's a lot of issues, and Max will be talking about them. One of the most important initiatives that I have started in Washington is called the Faith-Based and Community-Based Initiative.

The reason it's an important initiative is because it taps into the strength, the true strength of the American people, and that is the hearts of the American people. We are a compassionate neighbor. It's just an amazing country, isn't it, where there are millions of acts of kindness that take place on a daily basis without one government edict. People are listening to a—many times, to a higher calling, a calling much higher than government.

De Tocqueville, a Frenchman, came to America in the 1830s and saw the spirit of America. He saw the fact that America is a unique place because there were voluntary associations where people bound together to help solve community problems.

I strongly believe that many of the most intractable problems in society require something more than government, and therefore, our society must welcome the healers and helpers and people full of love as a part of solving and improving the human condition. And one practical thing—the way to do this is to open up Federal money for competitive grants to houses of worship.

See, I firmly believe that there are some neighborhoods in which the church or the

synagogue or the mosque can be much more effective than the government program. After all, people who go to the houses of worship go because they want to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

Ours is a fantastic country, full of the armies of compassion that feed the hungry and find shelter to the homeless and put their arm around somebody and says, "I love you, brother; what can I do to help?" Government is of law and justice; love comes from a higher calling. And I need Members of the United States Congress who are willing to stand strong to make sure the Faith-Based Initiative in Washington, DC, is strong, active, and alive, so we can help change America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And so I've come back to Savannah with a simple message: Please send a good man—a good, smart man—a good, honest, smart man, who loves his family and loves the people of this district, to the United States Congress. And that man is Max Burns.

Thanks for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Walter E. Brown, president and chief executive officer, Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

## **Proclamation 8047—Patriot Day, 2006**

*September 7, 2006*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

On the fifth anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, we recall the fire and horror at the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field. America will always remember the thousands of innocent lives taken by the enemies of freedom that morning.

In the face of these unspeakable attacks, we were reminded that the great strength

of America is found in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We witnessed firefighters, police officers, other public safety officials, and ordinary Americans demonstrate extraordinary courage, risking their lives to save innocent victims. We saw our country united in compassion as Americans came together to provide relief and bring hope to others.

Today, America is fighting a war that is testing our Nation's resolve. We are once again answering history's call with confidence, and we know that freedom will prevail. Our brave men and women in uniform have stepped forward to fight our enemies abroad so that we do not have to face them here at home, and we are grateful for the courageous individuals bringing terrorists to justice around the world.

We are also confronting the extremists in the great ideological struggle of the 21st century. September the 11th made clear that, in the long run, the only way to secure our Nation is to advance liberty and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. By working together with our friends and allies, we are helping spread the blessings of freedom and laying the foundations of peace for generations to come.

The events of September 11, 2001, will always be a defining moment in our history. We hold the victims and their families in our hearts, and we lift them up in our prayers.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day."

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2006, as Patriot Day. I call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff on Patriot Day. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and remembrance services, to display the flag at half staff from their homes on that day, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent Americans and people from around



the world who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., September 11, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 12.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **September 2**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **September 3**

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

#### **September 4**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Piney Point, MD.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

#### **September 5**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary E. Peters to be Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert K. Steel to be Under Secretary of the Treasury (Domestic Finance).

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Amelia Bomar to be Director of the National Park Service and to appoint her as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry W. Brown, John E. Mansfield, and Peter S. Winokur to be members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate William W. Mercer to be Associate Attorney General and to designate him as Acting Associate Attorney General of the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles F. Conner to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Bovin and Martin S. Feldstein as members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dallas Rob Sweezy as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and upon appointment to designate him as Chair.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Clayton Aiken; Stephen Bird; Valerie Billmire; James Boles; Stephanie Brown; William J. Edwards; Brian J. Kelly; Mary Margaret Pucci; Linda Hampton Starnes; Stephen Henry Suroveic; and William E. Tienken.

#### **September 6**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with Katie Couric of CBS Evening News.

The President announced that he has promoted Anita B. McBride to be Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady.

#### **September 7**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Atlanta, GA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with

Charles Gibson of ABC News. He then traveled to Marietta, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Margaret Rose Halbert.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Savannah, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Mary Nelson Adams. He then traveled to Pooler, GA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Paul Gigot of *The Wall Street Journal*.

The White House announced that the President will visit Tallinn, Estonia, on November 28 and Riga, Latvia, where he will participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit, on November 28 and 29.

The President declared a major disaster in Arizona and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from July 25 to August 4.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lauren M. Maddox to be Assistant Secretary of Education (Communications and Outreach).

The President announced his intention to nominate Jovita Carranza to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Y. Yamamoto to be Ambassador to Ethiopia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dean A. Pinkert and Irving A. Williamson to be Commissioners of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate Leslie Silverman as Vice Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

### ***September 8***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with Matt Lauer of NBC News. He then traveled to Flint, MI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Greg Ybarra.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Clarkston, MI, where, at a private residence, he attended a reception for Senate candidate Michael J. Bouchard. Later, he traveled to

Kansas City, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Bradley Fisher and Taylor Mayes. Later, at a private residence, he attended a reception for Senate candidate James M. Talent.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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### ***Submitted September 5***

David Longly Bernhardt, of Colorado, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, vice Sue Ellen Wooldridge.

Mary Amelia Bomar, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Park Service, vice Frances P. Mainella, resigned.

Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

Larry W. Brown, of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2010, vice R. Bruce Matthews, resigned.

Peter E. Cianchette, of Maine, to be a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2010, vice Nancy Killefer, term expired.

Charles F. Conner, of Indiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice James R. Moseley.

John Ray Correll,  
of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of  
Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforce-  
ment, vice Jeffrey D. Jarrett.

Charles L. Glazer,  
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraor-  
dinary and Plenipotentiary of the United  
States of America to the Republic of El Sal-  
vador.

William James Haynes II,  
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the  
Fourth Circuit, vice H. Emory Widener, Jr.,  
retiring.

Tracy A. Henke,  
of Missouri, to be Executive Director of the  
Office of State and Local Government Co-  
ordination and Preparedness, Department of  
Homeland Security, vice C. Suzanne  
Mencer, resigned.

Robert T. Howard,  
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of  
Veterans Affairs (Information and Tech-  
nology), vice Robert N. McFarland.

Collister Johnson, Jr.,  
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Saint  
Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation  
for a term of 7 years, vice Albert S. Jacques,  
term expired.

John Edward Mansfield,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the Defense  
Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term  
expiring October 18, 2011 (reappointment).

William W. Mercer,  
of Montana, to be Associate Attorney Gen-  
eral, vice Robert D. McCallum, Jr.

Mark Myers,  
of Alaska, to be Director of the U.S. Geologi-  
cal Survey, vice Charles G. Groat, resigned.

William Gerry Myers III,  
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the  
Ninth Circuit, vice Thomas G. Nelson, re-  
tired.

James F. X. O'Gara,  
of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director for  
Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug  
Control Policy, vice Barry D. Crane.

Halil Suleyman Ozerden,  
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for  
the Southern District of Mississippi, vice  
David C. Bramlette, retired.

Norman Randy Smith,  
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the  
Ninth Circuit, vice Stephen S. Trott, retired.

Richard Stickler,  
of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary  
of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, vice  
David D. Lauriski, resigned.

Sara Alicia Tucker,  
of California, to be Under Secretary of Edu-  
cation, vice Edward R. McPherson, resigned.

Michael Brunson Wallace,  
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for  
the Fifth Circuit, vice Charles W. Pickering,  
Sr., retired.

William Ludwig Wehrum, Jr.,  
of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Adminis-  
trator of the Environmental Protection Agen-  
cy, vice Jeffrey R. Holmstead, resigned.

Peter Stanley Winokur,  
of Maryland, to be a member of the Defense  
Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term  
expiring October 18, 2009, vice John T.  
Conway, term expired.

Otis D. Wright II,  
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for  
the Central District of California, vice Gary  
L. Taylor, retired.

George H. Wu,  
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for  
the Central District of California, vice Ron-  
ald S. W. Lew, retiring.

#### ***Submitted September 6***

Robert K. Steel,  
of Connecticut, to be an Under Secretary of  
the Treasury, vice Randal Quarles.

#### ***Submitted September 7***

Jovita Carranza,  
of Illinois, to be Deputy Administrator of the  
Small Business Administration, vice Melanie  
Sabelhaus, resigned.

Paul DeCamp,  
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage  
and Hour Division, Department of Labor,  
vice Tammy Dee McCutchen, resigned, to  
which position he was appointed during the  
last recess of the Senate.

Michael F. Duffy,  
of the District of Columbia, to be a member  
of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Re-  
view Commission for a term of 6 years expir-  
ing August 30, 2012 (reappointment), to  
which position he was appointed during the  
last recess of the Senate.

Lauren M. Maddox,  
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for  
Communications and Outreach, Department  
of Education, vice Kevin F. Sullivan, re-  
signed.

Daniel Meron,  
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the  
Department of Health and Human Services,  
vice Alex Azar II, to which position he was  
appointed during the last recess of the Sen-  
ate.

Mary E. Peters,  
of Arizona, to be Secretary of Transportation,  
vice Norman Y. Mineta, resigned.

Dean A. Pinkert,  
of Virginia, to be a member of the U.S. Inter-  
national Trade Commission for the term ex-  
piring December 16, 2015, vice Jennifer  
Anne Hillman, term expiring.

Irving A. Williamson,  
of New York, to be a member of the U.S.  
International Trade Commission for the term  
expiring June 16, 2014, vice Stephen Koplan,  
term expired.

Donald Y. Yamamoto,  
of New York, a career member of the Senior  
Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor,  
to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-  
potentiary of the United States of America  
to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethi-  
opia.

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## Checklist of White House Press Releases

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The following list contains releases of the Office  
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as  
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of  
Other White House Announcements.

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### **Released September 5**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-  
retary Tony Snow and Assistant to the Presi-  
dent for Homeland Security and  
Counterterrorism Frances Fragos Townsend

Fact sheet: The President's National Strategy  
for Combating Terrorism

Fact sheet: Mary Peters: The Right Person  
for Secretary of Transportation

Text: Letter from Chief of Staff Joshua B.  
Bolten to Senator Harry Reid

### **Released September 6**

Transcript of a background briefing by a sen-  
ior administration official and a senior intel-  
ligence official on the transfer of Central In-  
telligence Agency detainees to the Depart-  
ment of Defense's Guantanamo Bay deten-  
tion facility

Fact sheet: The Administration's Legislation  
To Create Military Commissions

Fact sheet: Bringing Terrorists to Justice

### **Released September 7**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-  
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President  
To Visit Estonia and to Participate in the  
NATO Summit in Latvia

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing  
that the President received the second report  
of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of  
North America (SPP)

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster  
assistance to Arizona

Fact sheet: Progress Report: Fixing the Prob-  
lems Exposed by the 9/11 Attacks

***Released September 8***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.